



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2003, The Southern Most HIV/AIDS Ride (aka The SMART Ride) was founded by Glen Weinzimer out of his own personal story of diagnosis and survival of HIV/AIDS, and is an annual 2-day, 165-mile bicycle ride from Miami to Key West; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, The SMART Ride has grown to become the 2nd-largest HIV/AIDS bicycle ride in the country and the only one of its size to give 100% of every dollar raised to its beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, on November 17th and 18th, 2023, The SMART Ride will mark its 20th ride through South Florida. Since 2003, nearly 10,000 riders and crew have participated in the 165-mile journey through Dade County and Monroe County and the cities of Coral Gables, South Miami, Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Goulds, Cutler Bay, Homestead, Florida City, Key Largo, Tavernier, Islamorada, Layton, Marathon, Big Pine, and to the final destination of Key West; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the Ride's history, over \$14.95 Million has been raised to directly benefit and support HIV/AIDS service organizations and their clients that have been infected, affected, or at risk for HIV and AIDS in Florida; and

WHEREAS, through the events The SMART Ride produces, including the ride and various community functions throughout every calendar year, they assemble and sustain a group of thoughtful, committed citizens that build relationships and raise funds to positively affect the lives of people, whom the citizens may have never met, and in so doing challenge themselves to stretch the limits of what they thought they could do as an individual; and

WHEREAS, the values of The SMART Ride are "transparency," "stewardship," "empowerment," and "collaboration." Through the combination of individual contributions and public/private partnerships, The SMART Ride is committed to creating, producing, and overseeing community-based events in which 100% of what the participants raise is given to benefiting service organizations. In so doing, the Ride acts as an avenue for change in the non-profit fundraising community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim November 17th and 18th, 2023 as

THE SMART RIDE WEEKEND

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States," and congratulate all of the riders and volunteers involved.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 9th day of November 2023.


Teri Johnston, Mayor