




MEMORANDUM

Date: January 11, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress 
City Manager

From: Todd Stoughton
Assistant City Manager

Subject: **Resolution to support Monroe County's Position with the State of Florida regarding Florida Keys Evacuation Modeling**

Introduction

On November 14 and 16, 2023, FloridaCommerce held two Florida Keys Evacuation Modeling webinars to discuss the 2023 Florida Keys Hurricane Evacuation Modeling process and draft results of the modeling. Hurricane Evacuation Clearance Times are the basis for the FL Keys Area of Critical State Concern's Rate of Growth Ordinance, and updated data may determine whether additional residential units will be authorized by the State of Florida beyond the existing allocation.

Background

At the November webinars, FL Commerce presented multiple scenarios that were modeled, with future allocations ranging from zero (0) additional units to 7,954 additional units. The "Clearance Times Summary" table was presented by FL Commerce, and includes columns where evacuation was modeled both with and without of Key West residents; and with mobile home residents evacuated in both Phase 1 and in Phase 2.

Based on Emergency Management acceptable evacuation practices, Monroe County Staff determined that the only reasonable summary column in the table is the column that includes Key West residents and evacuates mobile home residents in Phase 1 (early phase) of the evacuation. This column represents how evacuations have been modeled in the past - inclusive of Key West residents in the evacuation calculations for the entire Keys but with mobile home residents modeled to evacuate early in Phase 1 along with the tourists due to the less substantial construction of mobile homes.

During the December 13, 2023, Board of County Commissioners Meeting it was discussed by the Board that the State of Florida had given initial remarks that they are allowing additional time to allow for the County to meet with all local municipalities to discuss the path forward. Currently, the County is planning on creating a Hurricane Working Group and does not plan on the item being placed on the State of Florida legislative agenda until 2025.

Financial Impact

Currently, there is no direct financial impact on the City.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends supporting Monroe County in their efforts to urge Florida Legislature to support legislation necessary to include mobile homes in phase 1 of evacuation and the inclusion of the City of Key West into all modeling, and to support Monroe County's request to the State of Florida Legislature to hold off on any further related actions until the public has time to consider issues and make thoughtful decisions.