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THE CITY OF KEY WEST

1300 WHITE STREET
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To: The City Commission for the City of Key West
From: Ronald J. Ramsingh, City Attorney
Meeting Date: September 14, 2023
Agenda Item: Amending Sec. 2-282 and Sec. 2-283 to provide for direct appointment and direct removal of members of all Advisory Boards and to require annual elections of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson
Sponsor: Commissioner Kaufman

Action Statement:

The proposed ordinance seeks to amend Sec. 2-282 to permit the direct removal of all members of advisory boards by the appointing City Commissioner and not require a majority vote of the City Commission. Additionally, this revision amends Sec. 2-283 to require all advisory boards to conduct *annual* elections of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. Currently, the ordinance only requires that a Chairperson is elected without an annual election.

Background:

Currently, Sec. 2-282 Only indicates that members serve at the pleasure of the City Commission. Historically, if the appointing Commissioner wished to replace their board member, that process had been done unceremoniously by agreement. Since 2015, there have been 2 instances where a Planning Board member declined to vacate their position voluntarily, thereby requiring a contested public hearing. This amendment seeks to avoid a contentious hearing regarding all advisory board members. I have attached a document outlining the other city boards and their appointment and removal criteria.

Options:

1. To pass the proposed ordinance amendment to permit the direct removal of all advisory board members by the appointing City Commissioner and not require a majority vote of the City Commission.
2. To deny the proposed ordinance amendment, thereby creating an opportunity to have a contested agenda item for the City Commission to consider.

Recommendation:

Pass the proposed ordinance.