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## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

1300 WHITE STREET  
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040

To: The City Commission for the City of Key West  
From: Ronald J. Ramsingh, City Attorney  
Meeting Date: January 11, 2024  
Agenda Item: Amendment to the District Boundary Map between District 1 and District 2.  
Sponsor: City Attorney Ramsingh

### **COVER MEMO**

#### **Action Statement:**

The proposed ordinance seeks to amend the District Boundary Map to correct a part of the dividing line between Districts One and Two that traverses the Garrison Bight Marina.

#### **Background:**

Pursuant to Sec. 2-61, "The city commission shall no less than every ten years consider and adopt district lines in order to maintain an equal population distribution and to preserve minority voting rights." In 2021, the city commission considered and passed Ordinance #21-20 which adjusted district boundary lines based on the 2020 census. One of those changes was to the line dividing District One and District Two over the Garrison Bight Marina. The line tracked the Palm Avenue Bridge, which essentially split residents in the Marina between the two districts. After the change, the Supervisor of Elections made the city aware of a potential issue with mail-in ballots at the Marina. Because of the new change, she created a new address for those at the Marina who changed districts. This has the potential to lead to voter confusion. This proposal seeks to restore the Marina residents to District Two. The difference will be 42 residents which is very minimal and still keeps in the spirit of substantially equally divided voting districts.

#### **Procurement/Financial:**

The proposed amendment has no impact on the City's procurement processes, finance, or financial impact to businesses.

#### **Options:**

1. To pass the proposed amendment to eliminate any voter confusion at the Garrison Bight Marina well in advance of the 2024 election.

2. To deny the proposed ordinance amendment. The 2021 map will continue to be the District Boundary Map and has the potential to lead to voter confusion between District One and District Two citizens who reside at the Garrison Bight Marina.

**Recommendation:** To pass the proposed ordinance.