



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, HARRY LIVINGSTON BETHEL embodies Key West Conch Pride, as one of eight generations of Bethels born and raised on the Island of Key West; and

WHEREAS, with wife Jacquelyn Faye Bethel, he raised sons Harry Jr., Tony, Scott, Robert, Austin and stepsons Jason and Tony Perez (d. 1994), and takes delight in eleven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, who count among the four generations of Bethels living in Key West today; and

WHEREAS, HARRY LIVINGSTON BETHEL has served the citizens of Key West and the Florida Keys for more than half a century, through a long and historic series of elected and appointed public offices, and as a public utility employee; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bethel served on the City Commission of Key West from 1991 to 2007 of which 13 years were as Vice Mayor. In 2007 the City Commission proclaimed him as "Vice Mayor Emeritus in perpetuity," the only person to hold that ceremonial title; and

WHEREAS, among many public service roles over five decades, Vice Mayor Emeritus Bethel was elected and re-elected to the Key West Civil Service Board in 1971 and served for five years as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, appointed to Key West Bight Management Board in 2007 through 2010, appointed to the Career Service Council in 2019 and currently serving as Vice Chairman, appointed to the Key West Housing Authority from 1971 to 1991, serving as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, appointed and re-appointed by the Governor to the Monroe County Housing Authority from 2000 through 2018, serving as Chairman for 16 years, appointed to the Monroe County Housing Corporation in 1977 as one of the original trustees, and serving as President from 1993 to this day; and

WHEREAS, long considered a "fiscal watchdog," Vice Mayor Emeritus Bethel served as spokesman for the "Committee to Rescue Our Hospital" (2016-2017), and he has served at various times as a trustee on the Pension Boards for Key West General Employees and for Key West Police and Fire. He has served on the Keys Energy Services/City Electric Service Pension Board for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, among political accomplishments, Vice Mayor Emeritus Bethel worked to ensure that there were no tax increases during the first eight years of his service on the City Commission, he championed construction of the Skate Park on Flagler Avenue through private donations, and through his efforts, the Key West Annual Christmas Tree Lighting continue to feature trees provided by a private donor; and



WHEREAS, Vice Mayor Emeritus Bethel has been a member of many social organizations, including the Key West Jaycees, Key West Noon Rotary Club, Elk's Club, Moose Lodge and the Military Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, Vice Mayor Emeritus Harry Bethel is known for his mantra "ALWAYS be FAIR and you will ALWAYS be RIGHT", and his slogan "I Did It My Way."

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim and recognize

HARRY LIVINGSTON BETHEL for 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States". And urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in recognizing his extraordinary service to Key West and the Florida Keys.

WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 15th Day of March, 2022.

Sam Kaufman, Vice Mayor

Jimmy Weekley, Commissioner

Billy Wardlow, Commissioner

Clayton Lopez, Commissioner

Gregory Davila, Commissioner

Mary Lou Hoover, Commissioner