



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Conch Republic (also known as Key West and the Florida Keys) was born from trouble; dating back to the dark days of March 1982 when the U.S. Federal Government placed a Border Patrol Roadblock at the Last Chance Saloon in Florida City; and

WHEREAS, community leaders gathered around Mayor Dennis Wardlow as the very lifeblood of a budding tourism industry was threatened and Key West was headed to federal court. They lost but never gave up! Mayor Wardlow stated that if the Keys were to be treated as a foreign country, the only recourse would be to secede; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 1982, the Conch Republic flag was raised over City Hall and the Schooner Western Union went forth into the harbor and attacked the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter DILIGENCE with water balloons, Conch fritters and stale Cuban bread. The DILIGENCE fought back with fire hoses and thus commenced the Great Battle of the Conch Republic. Prime Minister Wardlow surrendered and demanded foreign aid from the United States (which is still pending); and

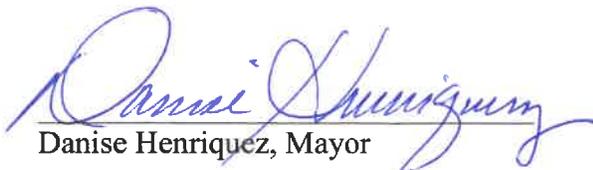
WHEREAS, a celebration of independence shall be held from April 17th - April 26th,
LONG LIVE THE CONCH REPUBLIC!

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Danise Henriquez, Mayor of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 as

CONCH REPUBLIC MONTH

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 1st day of April 2026.


Danise Henriquez, Mayor

