



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: The City Commission for the City of Key West  
From: Ronald Ramsingh, Assistant City Attorney  
Date: May 7, 2012  
RE: Revision to the Camping ordinance

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Mr. Mayor and Commissioners:

#### Background:

This is a proposed revision to the existing ordinance concerning camping in the City of Key West. Currently, Sec. 62-4 defines camping as "To pitch or occupy a tent or other temporary shelter for sleeping or other habitation purposes." The KWPD has historically experienced difficulty in enforcing the current ordinance when it came to defining what "camping facilities" entailed. This proposal will address those concerns when an individual may not have cooking facilities, but is nevertheless sleeping in a public place with some type of barrier from the elements. Therefore, this proposal adds language that includes tarpaulins, cardboard and make-shift shelters. The proposed revision also provides for a warning for a first offense in order to educate unsuspecting violators. Second and subsequent violations are subject to arrest under FL Statute 901.15.

#### Options:

- 1: To pass the proposed ordinance revision, thereby making the current prohibition against camping or sleeping in public much clearer for enforcement purposes;

2. To defeat the proposed revision and the existing inadequate ordinance will continue to be enforced.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RR', is written above a horizontal line.

Ron Ramsingh

Assistant City Attorney