

Keri O'Brien

From: Steven P. McAlearney
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 1:24 PM
To: Daniel Anderson; Port Operations
Cc: Keri O'Brien; Donna Phillips
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Shrimpboat Sound Studio

Mr. Anderson,

I will forward your letter to the City Clerk, who will make it available to the KW Bight Management District Board members for their consideration.

Kind regards,

Steve McAlearney
Director, Port and Marine Services
City of Key West
Office: 305.809.3792



From: Daniel Anderson <DAnderson@floridalawpartners.com>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Port Operations <PortOperations@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Shrimpboat Sound Studio

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Mr. McAlearney –

I have been coming to Key West for over 30 years. On my first trip, I arrived in the dark and slept in a tent at what was then Jabours Campground. When I woke up, I heard the sounds of Michael McCloud playing “Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season” by Jimmy Buffet coming from somewhere nearby so I dragged myself out of the tent and went out to investigate. I literally “stumbled next door to the bar” where I discovered “the bar” was Schooner Wharf Bar. I was instantly in love. I have discovered through the years something you already know – there is something quite magical about Key West. It is a special place.

Part of what makes Key West special, and magical, is the extraordinarily deep history and tradition, much of which is tied to songs by Jimmy Buffet, or Jimmy himself. Quite frankly, I do not think there is any place on earth that is so inextricably intertwined with characters like Jimmy, Ernest Hemingway, Captain Tony, and others who have painted a picture for us of the place we know and love. Part of that picture was created in, and includes, places like Shrimpboat Sound Studio. When I first learned about it, I was mesmerized and felt so lucky just to be able to walk by such a storied and important historical location.

Ordinarily I am one that believes some historical locations need to give way to progress and development. However, in this instance, I believe it would be a monumental mistake to approve the demolition of Shrimpboat

Sound Studio to make way for a bar. I was heartbroken when Jabours was sold and hotel was built in its place, but I understood the economics of it. In this instance, however, this particular building is so important that I believe it is a national treasure. Please add my voice to those that strongly oppose the approval of the demolition of Shrimpboat Sound Studio. It is so important to the lore of Key West that it would, in my view, be like Key West cutting off one of its own appendages.

Will I return to Key West if the building is demolished? Of course. But it will be different, and it will feel like something is missing. I truly hope that the Board and the City does not permit that to happen.

Thank you and the Board and City in advance for your time and consideration, and for the important work that you do to preserve the character of Key West.

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