



WHEREAS, the waters of the Florida Keys support the only living barrier coral reef in the continental U.S. and the health of this ecosystem depends upon water of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, the tourist and fishing based economy of the Florida Keys depends upon a healthy marine ecosystem with clean, clear water and safe swimming beaches; and

WHEREAS, our entire community has the responsibility to minimize impacts to coastal waters from land-based sources of pollution and activities on and in the water; and

WHEREAS, volunteers with the non-profit Reef Relief remove an average of 5,200 lbs. of marine debris a year; and

WHEREAS, employees at businesses like OMI are consistently proactive and exceed quality standards because they care about our waste water and storm water systems; and

WHEREAS, government employees like Jan Blackmon take the extra time to educate our City's marina users about our Clean Marina certification and the importance of not throwing fish overboard; and

WHEREAS, government leaders like past City Mayor Richard Heyman campaigned 25 years ago on taking responsibility for our nearshore waters, leading to the first wastewater treatment plant in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, water quality directly impacts the quality of life for everyone in the City of Key West and an increased awareness of this issue will lead to improved water quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
February, 2013 as

WATER QUALITY AWARENESS 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 the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 20th day of February 2013.

Craig Cates, MAYOR