

September 1, 2023

Key West City Commission

Mayor Johnston and Commissioners

1300 White St.

Key West FL. 33040

Dear Mayor Johnston and Commissioners:

Re: Commendation – Captain Alex Vega (Retired), Key West Fire Department

The purpose of this letter is to formally and publicly commend Alex Vega for the excellent service he provided to the city throughout the renovation and launch of our Key West Firehouse Museum. In my opinion, the level of service that Captain Vega extended to our island city was far beyond any expectations.

I have never before written a letter like this on an entirely unsolicited basis. However, in this case I have been so impressed by the support and service provided by Captain Vega, I felt compelled to go on record with my praise. In an era where exceptional service excellence has virtually disappeared from our time, the work that Captain Vega did should be held up as an example for others to try to emulate. I know I have and will in the future.

What particularly impressed me about the level of service provided by Captain Vega was that there were no additional financial rewards involved. It appears that it was simply Captain Vega's extraordinary commitment to excellence in preserving the history and artifacts of the fire department that motivated him to always go the extra mile. His example even had a positive impact on the attitude and productivity of our other board members.

Captain Vega began the process of restoring the old station #3 before it's closing on the approach of Hurricane George in 1998. He spent the last 25 years dedicated to making the station a treasure to this community by hosting important events such as the annual September 11th Memorial service. Everyone who visits the museum comes away with a greater sense of the history of Key West as well as firefighting on this vulnerable island.

In closing, I believe that Captain Vega truly deserves to be recognized and acknowledged well beyond the expectations of our city. The museum should have his name; it would not exist without him.

Very sincerely,

Michael Davila, Key West Fire Department Chief Retired

Key West Fire Museum Board Member