



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TO:** Bob Vitas, City Manager  
Mark Finnegan, Asst. City Manager - Operations

**FROM:** Alison Higgins

**CC:** Don Craig

**DATE:** November 7, 2013

**RE:** **Approval to Construct a composting shed at the Mounted Police Stables and authorization for the City Manager to execute a revocable license agreement with Sunrise Rotary.**

#### **ACTION STATEMENT:**

Resolution will approve the construction of a composting shed and authorize the city manager to execute the attached revocable license agreement with Sunrise Rotary.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The four horses owned by the Mounted Patrol output approximately 200 lbs of horse manure daily. Currently, this manure is put into a dumpster and hauled 200 miles away to the waste to energy incinerator in Pompano at a cost of approximately \$4,500 annually.

Horse manure easily turns into high nutrient, high quality compost that the City's Urban Forester, Key West Garden Club and the Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, GLEE community gardens, as well as local backyard gardeners have all expressed a desire to use. Best management practices for horse manure composting in Florida call for a three bay composting shed with a roof and adequate aeration.

The City's Engineering Department has drawn up the plans and the Building Department has issued the permit. It will be constructed next to the current stables, but able to be moved to the Mounted Patrols future home as designated in the Truman Waterfront Master Plan.

*Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.*

The City has received pledges for donations for all materials from Home Depot and the Sunrise Rotary. The Sunrise Rotary has also pledged volunteer labor to erect the structure, which will be overseen by City staff.

## **PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION**

Quality soil is a major deficiency for landscaping and gardening in the Keys. It is neither efficient nor cost effective to buy soil in bags from the mainland while we pay to ship off our soil amendments to an incinerator. Building this composting shed is a win-win solution.

Sunrise Rotary has a long history of taking on labor intensive volunteer projects in the community and for the City and carries their own insurance and liability coverage. The revocable license agreement helps define the rights and responsibilities of Sunrise Rotary and the City and allows them to volunteer on our property to build the shed at no cost to the City.

## **OPTIONS:**

1. The City Commission can pass the resolution to build the shed with Rotary volunteers.
2. The City Commission can pass a resolution to build the shed with staff.
3. The City Commission may elect not to pass the resolution.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This project is fully funded by donations. A positive impact to the city budget is realized by the savings of an estimated \$4,500 annually in disposal costs. Additional positive impacts will be noted as this material is used on city projects as compost.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Option 1 be approved.