

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING
GOVERNOR DESANTIS TO ALLOW HOME RULE OF
LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, INCLUDING THE CITY
OF KEY WEST, TO DO MORE PROTECT RESIDENTS
AND VISITORS FROM COVID-19; PROVIDING FOR
AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, in Executive Order 29-244, Governor DeSantis initiated Phase 3 of the "Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan" for Florida's Recovery, which placed broad restrictions on what local leaders can do in their own communities to curb the spread of the virus, and in Executive Order 20-297 the Governor extended that Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West hosts a large volume of tourists, but has extremely limited medical facilities, and a high percentage of residents and visitors fall into "high risk" categories for the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West has seen an alarming increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in recent weeks, and the City Commission finds that the Governor's suspension of individual penalties on Covid-19 orders, including local ordinances that require the wearing of masks/face coverings in public areas, is a severe hindrance to protecting public health; and

WHEREAS, many local businesses voluntarily provide extra precautions necessary to protect public health, but other businesses do not, resulting in a positivity rate in Key West that has edged higher than a number of larger cities on the mainland in recent weeks; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds the Governor's suspension of fines and penalties associated with Covid-19 violations against individuals to be unreasonable and a danger to public health in our island community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the recitals and findings contained in the foregoing "Whereas" clauses are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. That the City Commission for the City of Key West urges Governor DeSantis to rescind Executive Order 29-244 in part, to allow home rule within municipalities that need to do more to protect residents and visitors from Covid-19.

Section 3. That the City Commission further directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida.

Section 4: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2021.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2021.

Mayor Teri Johnston _____
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman _____
Commissioner Gregory Davila _____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover _____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez _____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow _____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley _____

TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK