

Keri O'Brien

From: Liana Blanco <editor@keywestpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Keri O'Brien; Mayor E-Mail; District IV; District VI; District I; District II; District III; District V
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Cuba Resolution at 6/4/26 Meeting

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***Please share the following comments with the City Commissioners and include them in the public record for the relevant agenda item. If possible, I also request that this letter be attached to the agenda packet:

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

I respectfully urge you to support the resolution expressing solidarity with the Cuban people and their desire for freedom and basic human rights.

Key West's ONE HUMAN FAMILY motto should support freedom in Cuba by rejecting the failed communist regime which has oppressed them for 67 years.

For decades, the Cuban people have faced political repression and the denial of fundamental liberties, which are endowed by our Creator. Many have risked their lives crossing the Florida Straits to reach the Key West, and their stories are deeply intertwined with our island community.

Reports from Secretary of State Marco Rubio and various human rights organizations highlight how the military-controlled economy concentrates power and money, while Cuban citizens have faced extreme hardship for decades.

Furthermore, dissidents, artists, and young people are routinely imprisoned for exercising the very freedoms we cherish.

Key West shares a unique and historic bond with Cuba. From the 1830s through the struggle for independence from Spain, Cuban immigrants shaped our city's economic and cultural identity.

By the 1880s, one-third of our population was Cuban-born. Cuban cigar makers made Key West a global manufacturing hub, and the community's civic influence was cemented in 1876 when Carlos Manuel de Céspedes y Quesada became our first Cuban-born mayor.

Notably, José Martí frequently visited Key West to organize support for Cuban independence, utilizing the San Carlos Institute to inspire our residents.

Because of these efforts, Key West is considered a birthplace of the movement for a free Cuba.

Supporting this resolution today honors the legacy of the thousands of Cuban workers and families who built Key West businesses, schools, and churches.

Given our shared history, supporting this resolution is a recognition of our heritage and the universal values of human dignity we admire in our ONE HUMAN FAMILY motto of Key West.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the residents of Key West.

Viva Cuba Libre!

Respectfully,

Liana Gonzalez-Blanco
Key West, FL