

RESOLUTION NO. 23-350

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE  
CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING THE  
PARKING AREA AT NELSON ENGLISH PARK AS "THE  
IRVING 'SONNY' RIVAS MEMORIAL PARKING AREA";  
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Irving "Sonny" Bruce Rivas (1948-2023) was raised in a large and close-knit family in Key West; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Rivas was a community activist with a strong work ethic, who instilled the importance of education, independence and perseverance in family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rivas attended Douglass High School and graduated from Key West High School, he was drafted into the United State Army, and served during the Vietnam war, earning several decorations for his service, including an Army Commendation Medal and Expert Badge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rivas was a proud graduate of Florida A & M University, who in his varied career worked for the Monroe County School District, the Department of Children and Families, and the Comcast Corporation; and

WHEREAS, in retirement Mr. Rivas was famous for his cooking, passion for sports, dominoes, and for volunteering his time for local organizations and helping countless individuals in Key West. He faced health challenges with grace; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Rivas and his extended family have been an essential part of the cultural and economic development of Key West in the past 75 years, and as such the City Commission finds it fitting to recognize Mr. Rivas by naming the area adjacent to Nelson English Park in his honor; and

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

Section 1: In recognition of his many contributions to the cultural and economic development of Key West, and to extended family and friends, the City Commission hereby names the parking area adjacent to Nelson English Park the "Irving 'Sonny' Rivas Memorial Parking Area," to be marked with appropriate signage.

Section 2: 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 14th day of December, 2023.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on 15th day of December, 2023.

Filed with the Clerk on December 15, 2023.

Mayor Teri Johnston	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Lissette Carey	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	<u>Yes</u>

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TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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KERI O'BRIEN, CITY CLERK