

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA EXPRESSING DISSAPPROVAL
OF THE EVERGLADES ICE DETENTION CENTER KNOWN
AS "ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ" FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS; URGING FULL
TRANSPARENCY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Key West is dedicated to safeguarding human dignity, constitutional due process, ecological stewardship, and respect for Indigenous sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, a detention facility named *Alligator Alcatraz* began operations on July 3, 2025, at the Dade Collier Training and Transition Airport within Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned calls upon the Governor to ensure full transparency regarding the operations of the Everglades ICE Detention Center, and to immediately initiate a comprehensive investigation into its practices and conditions, and to further request that independent oversight be provided by human rights, immigrant justice, environmental, and other relevant organizations to safeguard the well-being and dignity of detainees and ensure compliance with all human rights standards.

WHEREAS, the facility operates without formal assignment by any immigration or federal court, resulting in a legal void in

which attorneys are unable to access or locate clients—even those with valid legal documentation—thereby denying detainees due process protections and leaving many indefinitely incarcerated without hearings, charges, or judicial review;

WHEREAS, credible accounts from detainees, medical professionals, attorneys, legislators, and human rights organizations report:

- Overcrowding in cage-like cells of up to 32 persons, maggot-infested food, plumbing failures, fungal infections, swarms of disease-carrying mosquitoes, and round-the-clock lighting with no privacy or hygiene access;

- Withholding of medical care leading to hospitalizations and deaths, denial or delay of legal counsel and religious practice, shackling and dehumanizing treatment akin to psychological coercion;

WHEREAS, construction and operation of the facility have caused severe ecological harm:

- The site is located in a >96% wetland and prime habitat for endangered species like Florida panther, manatee, wood stork, and snail kite;

- The emergency-build bypassed NEPA, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Park Organic Act

requirements, with no environmental review, tribal consultation, or public hearing;

- Infrastructure—including roads, paving, fill, lighting visible 15 miles away, diesel generators, and sanitation systems—has degraded hydrology, increased pollution, disrupted wildlife corridors, threatened carbon sequestration, and impacted tribal lands;

WHEREAS, lawsuits from Friends of the Everglades, Center for Biological Diversity, and Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes seek immediate halting of operations pending full impact assessments; and

WHEREAS, civil-rights and environmental organizations including ACLU, Human Rights Watch, Americans for Immigrant Justice, Florida NOW, Center for Biological Diversity, and Friends of the Everglades, alongside medical personnel, have denounced the facility's environmental destructiveness, abuses, and legal violations;

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

Section 1. The City Commission hereby expresses disapproval with the operation of Alligator Alcatraz for violations of human rights and environmental integrity.

Section 2. The City of Key West urges consideration of immediate closure of the facility and cessation of any state or federal funding for its construction or operation.

Section 3. The City of Key West urges state and federal authorities to carry out independent, NEPA-compliant environmental impact assessments addressing wetlands, species habitat, hydrology, air/water/light pollution, carbon release, and tribal cultural sites.

Section 4. The City of Key West calls for investigations into detainees' legal access, medical neglect, sanitation, psychological harassment, and treatment conditions.

Section 5. The City of Key West insists upon full transparency by publicly releasing contracts, environmental and legal documentation, contractor agreements, detainee rosters, and tribal consultation records.

Section 6. The City of Key West pledges collaboration with human rights, immigrant justice, environmental, Indigenous, and public health organizations to hold authorities accountable and support detainees and vulnerable ecosystems.

Section 7. The City of Key West reaffirms its support for humane alternatives to mass detention, including community-based

supervision, legal representation, medical care, and respect for constitutional and environmental values.

Section 8: 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 _____, 2025.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2025.

Mayor Danise Henriquez	_____
Vice Mayor Lissette Carey	_____
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	_____
Commissioner Monica Haskell	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Donald "Donie" Lee	_____

DANISE HENRIQUEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KERI O'BRIEN, CITY CLERK