

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Key West has long been celebrated as a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse community that proudly upholds the values of individuality, freedom of expression, and unity; and

WHEREAS, since the 1950s, the LGBTQIA+ community has played a central and transformative role in revitalizing and sustaining Key West, especially through its contributions to tourism, the arts, culture, small business development, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, the area encompassing Duval Street from Olivia Street to Angela Street and Simonton Street from Olivia Street to Angela Street has been at the heart of LGBTQIA+ life in Key West — home to numerous LGBTQIA+-owned and LGBTQIA+-friendly businesses, guesthouses, performance venues, and community gathering spaces; and

WHEREAS, this district is the site of globally recognized LGBTQIA+ celebrations, including Pride, Fantasy Fest, Tropical Heat, Women Fest, and the historic Sea-to-Sea Rainbow Flag display, all of which reflect the enduring legacy and global significance of Key West's LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Duval and Petronia Streets, located in the core of this vibrant district, is one of the island's most iconic and visited locations — a place where the City's values are boldly and beautifully displayed through the installation of the Rainbow Crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, these crosswalks are more than an artistic enhancement; they are a powerful and visible symbol of the City of Key West's enduring commitment to equality, love, inclusion, and respect for all —reflecting our community's guiding principle: *One Human Family*; and

WHEREAS, the Rainbow Crosswalks have become a beloved landmark for residents and visitors alike, a celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community's rich cultural contributions, and a reminder that our strength lies in our diversity and unity as a people; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Key West recognizes Duval Street from Olivia Street to Angela Street, and Simonton Street from Olivia Street to Angela Street, as the **Historic Gayborhood of Key West**, and has officially proclaimed the Rainbow Crosswalks as a cultural landmark, providing for official designation and signage to recognize their historical, cultural, and economic significance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Danise Henriquez, Mayor of the City of Key West, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission and the citizens of Key West, do hereby recognize and honor the Rainbow Crosswalks at Duval and Petronia Streets and recognizes the surrounding area as the Historic Gayborhood of Key West, a treasured cultural district that embodies the values of inclusivity, unity, diversity, and pride.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Key West to be affixed this 6th day of August 2025.

Danise Henriquez, Mayor

Samuel Kaufman, Commissioner