



# Memorandum

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**To:** The Honorable Mayor and City Commission

**Date:** September 14, 2023

**From:** Albert P. Childress  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "APC", is written over the name "Albert P. Childress".

**Subject:** Fiscal Year 2023-24 Legislative Priorities

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## Introduction

As we approach the upcoming Legislative Session for fiscal year 2023-24, the city wishes to discuss the "Legislative Priorities" identified by staff. A discussion item has been placed on the agenda for the City's Lobbyist Team of Gray Robinson, Joseph Salzverg, to appear before the Mayor and City Councilmembers.

## Background

The City Manager's Office requested that each department identify a list of their legislative priorities for the upcoming 2023-24 Legislative Session so that they could be made part of the discussion item at the September 14, 2023, City Commission meeting. The city has identified programs that the city is seeking state funding to complete projects or to initiate new projects.

Our State Lobbyist in preparation for this item had a Zoom meeting with the City Attorney and the City Manager's Office on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Lobbyist reached out to the Mayor and City Commissioners to discuss with them the priorities of the city for the upcoming Legislative Session.

Last year the City of Key West was unsuccessful in securing any state funding for projects. This year the Administration has made a commitment to work tirelessly with staff and our State Lobbyist in obtaining funding for projects. Also, the city will be actively engaged in tracking House Bills that impact the City of Key West in a negative manner.

## Finance Department

- Explore the City's ability to impose a Municipal Resort Tax that would come back directly to the City of Key West similar to the City of Miami Beach
- Use the funding for Ft. Taylor entrance fees for adaptation and sustainability efforts.

## Engineering Department

- Develop annual funding sources(s) for small communities to augment State gas tax revenue sharing which is insufficient to maintain let alone improve roadway conditions. A reliable funding stream would allow communities to better plan their roadway maintenance program and

implement pavement rehabilitation strategies to prolong useful roadway life rather than requiring more costly repaving.

- Funding to demolish and rebuild Fire Station 3, which is prone to flooding and spalling.
- Funding for upgrades to Coffee Butler Amphitheater to increase bookings and attendance.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Grant, seeking funding for cultural art events and programming to the community.
- FDHS Cultural Affairs Grant, see funding for cultural art events and programming to the community.
- FDEP Land Conservation Fund Grant, seek funding for improvement to parks and a developing a parks Master plan.
- Turf replacement for Roberts Field and HOB, saving potable water and thousands of dollars to the City and School District,

### **Building Department**

- Approve legislation that would allow local jurisdiction to pass ordinances to regulate “Private Providers.”

### **Planning Department**

- Infrastructure improvements for climate resiliency associated with Mallory Square and the Southernmost Point (stormwater, erosion, and flood reduction and heat mitigation)
- Wind hardening and stabilization for specific publicly owned contributing historic buildings in the Key West Historic District.
- Oppose any legislation related to HB1317 and SB 1346 and protect historic buildings and structures in areas of critical concern. These bills would have facilitated demolition of historic structures not in compliance with FEMA regulations.
- Allow local governments in areas of critical state concern to set appropriate lease amounts related to submerged land leases.
- Look at getting the City of Key West removed from the requirements of FS 163.045, tree removal due to the area of critical state concern and the value of trees to our environment.
- Wind and flood insurance affordability is a critical need and a key component in preserving housing affordability. Need to enact pro-consumer measures to help reduce wind and flood insurance premiums for both residential and commercial property owners.
- Establish a land use management system that promotes and supports a diverse and sound economic base.
- Upgrades to Caroline Street, in blighted CRA/TIF area to rehabilitate roadway, install ADA sidewalks, improve bike and pedestrian safety, and reduce flooding.
- Support affordable housing by supporting legislation, policies, funding financing, rebates and incentives to expand energy efficiency.

### **Code Compliance**

- Increase fines for illegal vacation rentals and increase regulatory fees for transient and vacation rentals.

- Although the City of Key West residential population is only 25,000, we have another 25,000 people here on a daily basis that are visiting or working. Allow Key West under Chapter 162 to increase Special Magistrate fines based on daily population.

### **Housing**

- Lofts at Bahama Village (3.2 acres) gap financing for home ownerships units
- Establish a land use management system that promotes and supports a diverse and sound economic base.
- Change State Statute to allow a onetime 160% AMI requirement under FS 380.0666 to facilitate homeownership projects.
- Increase funding for workforce housing for City Workers, First responders and local business employees.

### **Public Works /Utilities**

- Obtain funding for the implementation of the Stormwater Master Plan.
- Obtain funding for upgrades and modernization of the Richard A. Heyman Environmental Protection Facility (RAHEPF).
- Obtain funding for upgrades to the sanitary sewer collection system to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I).

### **Police Department**

- Increase the fine for violations of 316.1955 - enforcement of parking requirements for person who have disabilities from \$250 to \$500.
- Provide funding for academy scholarship programs to recruit local residents for Police Officer Positions.
- Provide funding for to recruit out of state and county Police Officers for housing allowance for initial one year of employment.
- Increase AMI to allow Police Officers to live in subsidized housing.
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### **Fire Department/EMS**

- Chapter 80 Cruise Ships Regulations, impose an impact fee for Emergency Medical Services that is provided for cruise ship passengers. EMS is transporting patients 2-3 per day to Key West local Hospital. These fees are being paid by local property taxes.
- Florida Statute 401.113 (2) – funds from state are going to the county and non are being shared with the City of Key West

### **Transportation**

- Provide long term funding for Transportation that it utilized throughout Monroe County.
- Provide long term funding for the Duval Loop that is utilized by tourist with ridership of 80,000 per year.