

- WHEREAS, Cupcake Sushi was founded by Lori Shubert in the City of Key West in 2013, is the world's firsthand rolled dessert sushi and is located on 1114 Truman Avenue in the City of Key West, employing 6 employees; and
- WHEREAS, Lori successfully created the invention of a system that rolls buttercream around moist cake with the use of a cold stone similar to what is used in mixing ice cream, and cuts dessert rolls into unique and delicious bite size pieces of art, similar to maki sushi—this led to Lori securing two patents for design and utility which is rare in the dessert industry; and
- WHEREAS, Cupcake Sushi offers live roll events for local weddings and private parties, has a retail store, and utilizes their e-commerce site to sell and ship desserts nationwide; and
- **WHEREAS**, according to Lori, Cupcake Sushi has "been loved, nurtured, and raised by Key West locals" and that the business "suits Key West on so many levels, there is no other place I would rather have located my company"; and
- WHEREAS, the Florida Small Business Development Center (FSBDC) at Florida International University (FIU) started under FIU's College of Business in 2014 and expanded to the City of Key West and Monroe County in October 2018 with a team of highly experienced local consultants assisting business owners in the City of Key West and Monroe County; and
- **WHEREAS**, on May 2, 2024 the FSBDC at FIU announced Cupcake Sushi as the winner of the 2024 Restaurant of the Year for Monroe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby recognize the valuable and dedicated work of

CUPCAKE SUSHI

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 6th day of June 2024.

Teri Johnston, Mayor