

STATE OF THE CITY 2015:

It is a fine group of dedicated men and women who work for the City of Key West. Many of our residents do not realize what it takes to make our great city work day in and day out. The following is a very brief overview of the departments within our local government, what they have accomplished over the last 12 months.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

DIRECTOR, ROD DELOSTRINOS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MARCUS DAVILA

Public Works

- Maintained over 80 miles of city streets & associated sidewalks, storm drains, street signs & light fixtures
- Staging & removal of barricades
- Clean up & removal of debris after many events
- Assist police during emergencies to include traffic accidents, oil spills & fires
- Preparation & Recovery before during and after storms
- Fantasy Fest
 - over 1300 barricades were staged and removed
 - 400 trash & recycling containers staged
 - In addition to 130 permanent metal cans on Duval Street.

- Repair & potholes on city maintained streets
- Street Sweeping 365 Days a year
- Provide Support to all other city departments
- Assist with abandoned homes & vehicles

Historic Cemetery

- Over 100 internments annually
- Over 80,000 people interred total
- Burial records for all 19 acres have been digitized

Parks & Recreation

- Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center & Pool
- Willie Ward & Nelson English Parks
- Frederick Douglas Gym
- Clayton Sterling Complex (Baseball)
- Rosa Hernandez Softball Field
- Wicker's Sports Complex (George Mira Field (Football) & Dewitt Roberts Softball Field)
- Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park
- Bay View Park
- In-Line Hockey Rink
- Pocket Parks
- Beaches
- Green Space within City Limits

Fleet Services

- Repairs & Maintains over 400 City vehicles & equipment
- Going green & switched to bio-diesel blend
- Over 2000 vehicle/equipment repairs last year

Facilities Maintenance

- Reopening of Nelson English and Willie Ward Parks following a major renovation (\$1.1 million)
- Truman Annex Sports Field Re sod and Irrigation Installation
- Upgrade concession stands Fire Safety through the installation of Fire Suppression Hood System at three locations. (George Mira Football Field, Dewitt Roberts Softball, Rosa Hernandez Girls Softball)
- Replacement of ADA Elevator/ Lift at Community Pool (\$50,000)
- Bill Butler Park Renovation
 - Refurbished and installed old playground equipment from Glen Archer Elementary School into park
 - Installed ADA compliant areas
- In an effort to maintain safe bicycle/ pedestrian paths, Community Services Department renovated the Staples Avenue Bridge
- Continuing replacement of the Little Hamaca Boardwalk and Handrail
- Installed a new restroom facility at the Park N Ride
- Clayton Sterling Baseball Complex Dugout Roof Repairs
- Tennis and Basketball Courts resurfacing at Bayview Park
- Fire Station #3 Bathroom Renovation

Utilities Department

- collects and treats on average 4.5 million gallons per day of wastewater.
- cleaned and removed debris from sewers and pump stations, made repairs to pipelines, pumps, controllers, and equipment, and performed laboratory testing.

- improved collection of sewer services fees, by partnering with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.
- received certification and permit for the Richard A. Heyman Environmental Protection Facility through January 21, 2019, to operate the 10 Million Gallon per day domestic wastewater facility.
- Replaced Sewer Pump Station D discharge pipes ([at the intersection of Seminary Street and Thompson Street](#)),
- Utilities Department undertook two construction projects to reduce flooding in the Front Street and north Simonton Street areas, by creating a new emergency outfall at Simonton Beach and replacing the old outfall at the Aquarium with a larger outfall at Mallory Square. Both projects will be completed in this year.
- cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, pollution control devices, and injection wells,
- Performed near shore water sampling and testing. All came back fine.
- Storm water fee collection has increased with fewer delinquencies, due to creation of a non-advalorem assessment on the property tax roll.

Solid Waste Collection and Transfer Division

- Improved recycling rate, as the result of single day collection.
- With an increase of 1222.92 tons of recycled material for the year, which is an increase of nearly 26% .
- Solid waste transfer station on Rockland Key has processed approximately 43,500 tons of solid waste, down from 2013 by 208 tons because of increased recycling.
- We entered into a contract with Waste Management to provide solid waste collection services and operation services for the city's Transfer Station on Rockland Key.
- Residents are offered household hazardous waste and e-waste collection every month, usually at Bayview Park.

PLANNING

ACTING DIRECTOR, KEVIN BOND

- Added GIS (Geographic Information System) Division & manager
- Provided staff for over 100 public meetings & workshops
- Maintains & Updates the Permit Allocation System
- February 2014 new BPAS (building Permit Allocation System) became effective
- Able to award up to 91 new residential units annually through 2023, including 45 units for affordable housing
- HARC staff received 2,147 Certificate of Appropriateness applications. Of those, 109 were reviewed by the HARC itself, with 73 or 70% approved. Only seven applications were denied, which is only 6% of the applications reviewed by HARC and staff. Other applications of the total were withdrawn or postponed. Of the total applications received, 2,111 or 98% were approved.
- Planning staff and the Planning Board reviewed 151 applications, including 63 variances, 17 major or minor development plans, 13 easements, eight BPAS applications, seven beneficial uses and six revocable licenses.
- The Tree Commission and Urban Forestry Manager processed over 540 applications, averaging 46 applications a month. Of those, 222 applications were approved by the Tree Commission with three denials, 15 applications were reviewed of landscape designs for major development projects, and 258 applications were staff approved by the Urban Forester. Staff approvals included removal of palm trees, maintenance trimming of regulated trees, transplanting of trees, and applications that did not require a permit. In the 2014 calendar year, 340 Tree Commission permits were closed out once verification of permit compliance had been achieved, averaging 29 closeouts a month.

Other Programs and Functions:

Comprehensive Planning and Zoning

- Created revised method for identification and recognition of lawful residential units (permanent and transient). • Realigned processing order of receiving HARC approvals and Major Developments to achieve efficiency and lessen variance requests.
- Reviewed two major re-development plans for Peary Court at HARC level.
- Served as staff to the Bahama Village and Caroline Street Community Re-Development districts,
- Allocation System (BPAS) ordinance was created and became effective in February 2014. The ordinance provides the guidelines for the issuance of new residential building permits each year for the next decade.
- Necessary Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map

and Zoning Map amendments were completed to carry out the approval of the Truman Waterfront Park Master Plan.

- At the request of the City Commission, staff completed an “Affordable Housing White Paper”, which identified methods the City, Key West Housing Authority and the Monroe County Land Authority can use on public lands and with Land Authority funds to build much needed housing with the 500 BPAS allocations to be received in the
- Leveraging CRA funds, partnered with Habitat for Humanity on the Green Jobs and Futures project, training and employing local students to provide free energy and water conservation tools and techniques to the Bahama Village Area.
- .The Sustainability Coordinator will create an Energy Plan for the City’s existing buildings, to begin in early 2015.
- Convened the first meeting of the Green Business Leadership Council, involving the City’s 15 largest employers in a plan to help green their operations.
- Coordinated and facilitated many sustainability efforts within and throughout the City, including:
 - 1. Partnered with local chapter of U.S. Green Building Council to hold six workshops to educate local architects, engineers and contractors about the new BPAS green building standards.
 - 2. Partnered with Green Living Energy Education to hold eight educational sessions on recycling, aquaponics, energy savings, rain barrels, etc.
 - 3. Successfully composted one year of Horse Manure with the Mounted Patrol, holding 12 Community Compost days, saving \$4,500 per year and providing much needed donations to the Mounted Patrol program.
 - 4. Provided professional level internships for three local students, as well as invited community volunteers to assist in larger projects, accruing ~\$12,000 in in-kind assistance to City sustainability efforts.
 - 5. Following on the success of the Audubon Grant native planting at HOB school, Sustainability staff was consulted for HOB parking area landscaping design, resulting in 172 more native trees and shrubs bordering George Street.
 - 6. Advised the Monroe County Climate Change Action Committee, helping to streamline efforts across the Keys.
 - 7. Nine thousand (9,000) gallons worth of cistern capacity came online at Florida Keys Wildlife Rescue in Indigenous Park, supplanting 600 gallons of potable water used weekly to clean cages.
 - 8. The 2014 LED Lighting Challenge asked businesses to submit to a lighting audit to find out how much money they would save by switching their lighting to LED lights. Over 40 businesses took the challenge, with the winner, Besame Mucho, showing a 81% savings potential. The Commission Chambers at City Hall switched to 100% LED lighting, thanks to a donation to the Florida Keys Historic Trust, which is estimated to save \$500 annually, not counting reduction in air conditioning cost.
 - 9. Via the City interdepartmental Transportation Coordination Team, researched and facilitated the acceptance of the City’s first hybrid cars and buses. Combined the Pedestrian Action Committee and Bicycle Action Committee

into a Complete Streets team increasing bike registration and education at events.

ENGINEERING

DIRECTOR, JAMES BOUQUET

- Currently manages 40 active projects
 - Combining over 460M in design fees & actual/projected construction costs
 - Fort Street Parking Lot
 - Willie Ward-Nelson English Park renovation
 - Navy outer Mole project completed
 - Police center & horse stables complete
 - North Roosevelt Construction project complete
 - Police station window replacement
 - Duck Ave. Reconstruction project complete
- Active projects
- The new \$ 17 million City Hall on White Street is expected to commence construction in January 2015.
 - The \$8.9M Key West Transit Facility currently under construction is scheduled for completion by September 2015.
 - The \$6.2M Fire Station No. 2 will be operational by the end of December 2014, with demolition of the old Angela Street City Hall and new parking lot completed by April 2015.
 - The South Roosevelt Boulevard Phase II reconstruction project design should be complete by June 2015, with construction tentatively scheduled for 2016-2017
 - The \$1.7M Frederick Douglas Gym Renovation project should be bid ready by February 2015, with construction later that year.
 - The Caroline Street Corridor construction will start this year. The project includes storm water improvements, roadway reconstruction, street lighting, ADA compliant sidewalks and landscaping.

- Design of the Truman Waterfront Park Phase I is currently underway. This project includes infrastructure, roadways and parking, sidewalks, landscaping, play areas, multi-purpose field and community center located on 23 acres of the Truman Waterfront.
- center and horse stables located on 23 acres of the Truman Waterfront.
- active projects, combining for over \$60,000,000 (\$60M) in design fees and actual/projected construction costs.

IT or INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

DIRECTOR, PATTI MCLAUHLIN

- New Website Responsive Design Upgrade (still in progress). This will make navigation of our website more user friendly.
- Setup new email domain cityofkeywest-fl.gov. (Everyone has new email address)
- Deployed new Getac (rugged) laptops for KWPD Officers.
- Rolled out new MobileOne (Field Reporting) Suite for KWPD Officers.
- Assisted with Body Camera testing for KWPD (100 being purchased through MCSO)

PARKING

DIRECTOR, JOHN WILKINS

- New parking permit program (park & Ride \$25/month)
- Implemented a new residential parking program
- Replaced parking dept. vehicles with new energy efficient Prius vehicles reducing fuel costs

PORT & MARINE SERVICES

DIRECTOR, DOUG BRADSHAW

- Created and implemented new City Ordinance mandating that all persons that use City dinghy docks must pump-out their anchored vessels also allowing for towing and impound fees for non-conforming dinghies.
- Implemented a new recycling program at City Marina
- Installed new security camera system on live-aboard side at City Marina

- Installation of sanitation system on Bonefish and Bonita Pier at City Marina
- Maintain Port Security plan in compliance with Home Land Security and the Florida Statue Chapter 311.12 by performing a quarterly review of the Plan and State/Federal requirements.
- Performed yearly security assessment review of the security operators for the Port.

- Coordinated pier assignment, security and transportation for a total of 332 Cruise Ship Port Calls which represents a total of 800,752 passenger visiting the City of Key West.
- Billing and receiving a total of \$3,485,621 in Gross Revenues to the City.
- Scheduling and updating Cruise Ship Calendars for the 2015-2018.
- Continue to make improvements to the common areas at Key West Historic Seaport including new lighting, bricks, landscaping, etc.
- Upgraded the storm water and outfall system on William Street in the Key West Historic Seaport

TRANSPORTATION

DIRECTOR, NORMAN WHITAKER

- Construction began on the Transit Facility on Stock Island.
- Completion by October 2015.
- With going green in mind, Key West Transit Accomplishments 2014:
- Ordered four new low floor clean diesel buses one of which is a Hybrid Diesel Electric.
- Begin phase two of the LED Lighting project for the Park-N-Ride garage located at the corner of Grinnell and Caroline.

- Provided Community Shuttle Trips, including Fantasy Fest “Safe Ride” Shuttles, also assisted Key West High School with their fundraiser.
- 2014 Safety Award – Florida Public Transportation Association
- Selected a contractor to construct bus aprons at selected bus stops on U.S. 1 between Key West and Marathon, Fl. These will be paid for through a 5309 Federal Grant & will cost the city nothing.
- Construction completion of North Roosevelt, transit routes were revised and redesigned.
- Implementation began November 17, 2014.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

DIRECTOR, NANCY KIELMAN

- receive a favorable audit opinion and a finding of no material weaknesses during fiscal year 2013
- We also received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 29th consecutive year. In order to be awarded a Certificate of the hiring of a new Deputy Finance Director and a new Risk Manager.
- The City was able to spend less than budgeted last fiscal year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR SAMANTHA FARIST

- Received and processed 1,366 applications for employment.
- Filled a total of 109 vacant positions; 43 with internal candidates through promotion/transfer; hired 66 new employees
- Conducted new hire orientations for 66 newly hired employees.
- Negotiated health insurance renewal at an annual rate below trend, for an 18 month period.
- Employee Development/Recognition:
- Service awards presented to City employee included:
 - 25 Five year anniversary awards
 - 21 Ten year anniversary awards
 - 9 Fifteen year anniversary awards
 - 9 Twenty year anniversary awards
 - 4 Twenty five year anniversary awards
 - 1 Thirty year anniversary awards

Department Changes:

- HR has completed the scanning of all employee personnel files and employee medical files.

CITY CLERK

CHERI SMITH

- Prepared City Commission meeting packets for distribution for 33 Commission meetings and workshops
- Attended 98 hours of Commission meetings
- City Manager's agenda setting

- Administered 33 City Commission packets to be placed on the City's web site for citizen perusal
- Administered 20 new ordinances passed by City Commission to be placed on City's web site for citizen perusal
- Administered and attested to 365 Resolutions and 20 ordinances
- Administered 31 calls for bids
- Administered 12 filing of Domestic Partnerships
- Administered approximately 600 hours of research for requests for documents
- Administered 100 hours preparing minutes for the Commission
- Administered 35 hours for the publication of 5 supplements to the City's Code Book
- Administered 600 hours preparing agendas, minutes and attending meetings for City Commission, Redevelopment Committee, Key West Bight Management District Board, Sustainability Committee, Art in Public Places Board, Historic District Signage Task Force, HARC/FIRM Task Force

CODE COMPLIANCE

DIRECTOR, JIM YOUNG

- During the past year the Code Compliance Department received and investigated approximately 1,968 complaints with the following being the top five:
 1. 387 for unlicensed/delinquent business tax receipts.
 2. 305 for trash bins left on the right of way
 3. 230 for building without permits or building beyond the scope of a permit
 4. 191 for obstruction of streets.
 5. 110 general/miscellaneous complaints.
- Some major issues that the Code Department has dealt with are life/safety violations.
 1. Unsafe/dangerous buildings.
 2. Construction work without a permit(s).
 3. Illegal dumping and spills.

4. Obstructions of traffic line of sight.

This past year Code Compliance has become proactive in responding to several community issues such as ADA, FEMA and the illegal transient rental activities. For the transient rental complaints a code officer has been specifically dedicated to investigating these complaints, which has provided an unexpected benefit, Code has been identifying properties being used in rental scams and compiling a data base that will be available to the public.

Of the 1,968 complaints 300 were presented to the Special Magistrate, who extended the compliance period in most cases for 30 days but some were extended longer due to circumstances. Of the 300 cases presented 54 were found in violation, 24 liens were assessed, 114 were continued, 103 were dismissed due to achieving compliance either the day of the hearing or just prior and 5 cases were for mitigation of fines.

KEY WEST POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF DONALD LEE

Promotions:

Sean Brandenburg was promoted to Captain. He is one of two captains next in command after Chief Lee. Captain Brandenburg oversees the Administrative side of the Key West Police Department while his counterpart, Capt. JR Torres oversees Operations.

Areaka Jewell was promoted to Lieutenant. She was also recognized by the Key West Chamber of Commerce as Officer of the Year.

Donny Barrios was promoted to sergeant.

KWPD had:

- Handled over 126,000 calls for service
- 24,978 calls to 911
- 63,943 Non-emergency Line Calls

- 6,401 Front Door Calls
- implementing 100 body cameras
- Structural improvements are being made to police department building

The police department safely supported events such as :

- Fantasy Fest
- Zombie Bike Ride
- New Year's Eve celebrations
- Poker run
- offshore Powerboat races
- many other smaller parades, and events.

The Department Rallied around Sgt. Eric Biskup who is fighting cancer with fund raising efforts of over \$30,000 as well as accompanying him to chemo sessions in Miami.

23 officers and support staff members teamed up with "Keys to Be the Change" in mentoring at risk students at Key West High School.

Working with and supporting over 30 students through the **Police Explorer (cadet) Program**.

Police Athletic League (aka PAL) sponsors free programs for local youth year round including: Girls & Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Boxing, Summer Camps, Afterschool Camps, 5k Runs and other youth & family friendly activities.

KEY WEST FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF DAVID FRAGA

- Performed 2320 inspections
- Reviewed 395 plans for Life Safety issues

- Regularly attended DRC and Planning Board meetings for input on Life Safety issues.
- Conducted Life Safety training consisting of the following:
 - Fire Extinguisher classes to hotels/motels, Monroe County Correctional Facility
 - Visited schools seeing some 3600 children, special events for children such as Kid's Day, Home Depot Children's Workshop
- Review, approval and life safety inspections were conducted on 51 special events
- Over 100 smoke detectors were donated by Strunk Ace Hardware which enabled us to distribute to those in need
- New 29 foot Safeboat put into service for waterborne firefighting and rescue operations
- Moved into new Fire Station # 2 at 616 Simonton St.
- 12 students completed the Key West High School Fire Academy sponsored by the South Florida Workforce Investment Board and the Key West Fire Department.
- Created new Division of Emergency Medical Services
- Appointed Eddie Perez as Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services
- Conducted Firefighter I & Firefighter II Fire Academy for State of Florida Firefighter Certification
- Twenty-one cadets graduated the Firefighter II Academy, the first-ever academy sponsored by the Key West Fire Department and certified by the state in Key West.

- Responded to over 1900 calls for service
- EMS PROVIDED STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 16,974 HOURS OF IN HOUSE TRAINING
- EMS Operations will begin April 1, 2015

- 15 new Firefighters to the department to support the new EMS transport operations
- 3 new 2015 Horton ambulances built on Ford E-350 chassis

- 1 used 2009 Med-Tec brand ambulance built on Ford E-450 chassis

- Dr. Eric Herrera selected as Medical Director for the Fire Dept.

- Ambulance Medical Billing selected for medical billing services

This concludes my report on our city's departments and its accomplishments.

It gives me great pride to be able to share with you the progress that we have been able to make in just 12 short months. And I just want to thank the employees of the City of Key West all of the volunteer board and committee members, and our city commission who make this happen.

That being said, we still have challenges that remain, and that we strive to resolve each and every day.

Our City is sound financially, our national economy is doing well and our local economic future looks bright.

But, we have challenges regarding workforce housing, more so now due to rents increasing. The flip side to this is that this is good for development and property owners as higher rent is an indicator of an increase in property values.

Workforce housing is a priority. While we may never have all the housing we need for our working residents, we must use this challenge to open our eyes to new opportunities to problem solve as they come along, and always keep an open mind.

Addressing issues like this will be a marathon not a sprint. We must be dedicated to finding solutions, even when our patience starts to run out. One person cannot do this alone. It has to be a community effort.

As a member of this community, each and every one of you is a part of our team. Our team can accomplish great things when it works together. If our community succeeds, if our team succeeds, then you succeed. So please keep voicing your opinions, volunteer your time to serve on committees, talk to each other, and share your ideas with our city.

I always say “Staying at the top is harder than getting to the top”. Key West is at the top now. We are in a great position for a wonderful future.

It will take all of us, our business community, our local government and our residents working together and working hard to stay there. Together we can continue to make Key West a great place to live and an attractive destination for visitors.

Let’s Keep Working Together to Keep Key West Moving Forward.