

State of the City of Key West
Delivered By: Mayor Craig Cates, February 2016

I am so excited to share with all of you the State of the City of Key West. This address will focus on the many things that the city has accomplished in 2015, and the goals on the horizon for 2016.

We are in a great place fiscally. We have reached many challenging goals, and we have set major milestones for 2016.

2015 Accomplishments:

Building:

Rewrote Chapter 14 Building Code within the City of Key West Ordinances.

Hired a new full-time Building Plans Examiner (Eric E. Cao).

Hired a new Multiple-licensed Building, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Inspector (David Herrin).

Updated our plan review process in an attempt to perform all-inclusive plan reviews that include HARC, Planning, Fire Marshal, Utilities and Engineering Reviews.

Engineering:

Assisted in the Planning and Installation of the Vietnam Living Memorial at Bayview Park which was completed in November 2015.

The new \$14.9 million City Hall on White Street construction is ongoing with completion expected in the Summer of 2016.

The \$8.9 million Key West Transit Facility currently under construction is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2016.

The South Roosevelt Boulevard Phase II reconstruction project design is substantially complete, with construction tentatively scheduled for 2016-2017.

The \$1.7M Frederick Douglass Gym Renovation project is bid ready with construction expected to commence spring 2016.

The Caroline Street Corridor is currently under construction. The project includes storm water improvements, roadway reconstruction, street lighting, ADA compliant sidewalks and landscaping.

Broke Ground on Phase 1 of Truman Waterfront and started construction. This \$17M project includes infrastructure, roadways and parking, sidewalks, landscaping, play areas and interactive water feature.

Design of the Truman Waterfront Amphitheater has been awarded and construction should start in 2016.

Completed Construction of the new Sexton's House

Other Projects include: Rest Beach re-nourishment, Zero Duval seawall, Mallory Square T-Pier, Community Services Facility redevelopment, Douglass Band Room stabilization and repaving of White Street.

Fire Department and EMS:

In 2015, the new EMS service required the hiring of 16 new Firefighter/EMT positions and a new administrative assistant. The new service acquired three new Horton Type III ambulances as front line units and another used unit as reserve. The new EMS service acquired state of the art EMS equipment to treat the patients we serve. We acquired a new John Deere Gator unit for special events deployment.

The Key West Fire Department responded to 4600 EMS calls and 3300 transports with a total of over 5700 calls for service

Distributed over 100 smoke detectors to those in need (via donation by the Westin Resort)

Community Services:

Maintained over 9.8 million linear feet of Right of Way

Mallory Square Restroom Renovation

Fence replacement at Hockey Rink and Skate Park

ADA ramp repairs and access redesign at Indigenous Park

Airport Road fence installation

City Clerk:

Purchased and launched new software program for public records request. Easily accessible via "citizens action line which is on our website as well as through the City of Key West smart phone app. Very simple to use, two clicks...track

The City of Key West has just added a new tool to help the community better connect to City government. Now, you can make a Public Records request right through the City's web site. We've upgraded the Action Line to ensure quick, thorough responses to request documents.

From there you will be able to request anything you need, from a police report to a bid document. With the help of GovQA Public Records Software, the City is enhancing its transparency to the public while

integrating a system that will better track public record requests across multiple departments, standardize records processing and fulfill requests in a timely manner.

Administered 19 new ordinances passed by City Commission to be placed on City's website for citizen perusal.

Administered and attested to 371 Resolutions and 19 ordinances

Administered approximately 600 hours of research for requests for documents

IT:

Trained and outfitted 100 Key West Police Officers with body cams

Configured and deployed OneSolution work management module

Designed and published 20 GIS layers, and mapped approximately 2500 points throughout the city

Completed 6,780 service tickets

Produced/broadcasted 136 events

CODE:

During the past year the Code Compliance Department received and investigated approximately 1,600 complaints with the following being the top ones:

202 for building without permits or building beyond the scope of a permit

157 for unlicensed/delinquent business tax receipts.

152 for obstruction of streets.

146 general/miscellaneous complaints.

Continuing proactive compliance measures regarding illegal transient rentals and working with the County on identifying illegal transient rental units.

HR:

Settled the Teamster Collective Bargaining Agreement, The Police Benevolent Association CBA and the International Association for Fire Fighters each for 3 years.

They presented:

35 five year anniversary awards

23 Ten year awards

8 fifteen year awards

10 twenty year awards

6 twenty five year awards

2 thirty year awards

On the Horizon for 2016:

Ribbon Cutting ceremony & Opening of the New Sexton's House

Completion of the \$8.9 Million Key West Transit Facility

Peary Court Referendum to bring the decision to the voters of Key West

Explore options such as Sigsbee, Poinciana, Peary Court, Truman Waterfront, Mosquito Control and SPCA property on college road for affordable housing.

Move in to the New City Hall –Summer 2016

Start construction of the Truman Waterfront Amphitheatre

Repaving of White Street

Begin renovation of Douglass Gym and break ground on New Community Center adjacent to the gym.

Repair the roof at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center

Rehabilitating Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park Pavilion

Designing and permitting new restroom facility at Smathers Beach

Resurfacing playing courts at Bayview

Replacing fencing at the Clayton Sterling Baseball Complex

General Upgrade Plan for Bayview Park

- Replacing Bayview Park playground equipment
- Painting the Bayview Park Pavilion

Discuss new urban beautification projects including the Southern end of Duval Street and the implementation of a comprehensive bicycle path plan.

Re-writing of HARC Guidelines.

Develop conceptual design for three individual sites for Affordable Housing.

Discuss and approve a design of the Dock Master's Office at Garrison Bight.

The team that runs the city of Key West, and its partners have accomplished so much in the year 2015. It's a tough act to follow. We have great momentum, and we will ride that wave right into and through 2016. The Future of Key West looks extremely promising.

The people of Key West have spoken, and as the Mayor of this great city it is my duty to speak and do the will of its people. I have heard your comments and concerns loud and clear. Such that, **the top three priorities for our city in 2016 are as follows:**

Number 1: Hands down is Affordable Housing... and Affordable Living. Affordable Housing is a term that has become all too familiar to the citizens of Key West. Everyone seems to be talking about it. Everyone is affected by it. Whether it's the employer or the employee, parent or child, young or old it affects us all. Surprisingly, you do not hear the term "Affordable Living" nearly as much. Affordable housing is a narrow focus. Affordable Living is a wide vision concept. This encompasses housing, low taxes, transportation, daycare, and a comprehensive look at how to make living in Key West affordable for its residents.

As to Affordable Housing, we have some fantastic prospective solutions. City of Key West staff is exploring the viability of ideas such as developing City owned property on College Road where the Mosquito Control currently leases space as well as at the Truman Waterfront Park. Trumbo Road currently houses our Transit Facility through another great partnership with the Monroe County School Board. Maybe we can share our newly built bus maintenance facility with the School Board, and free up the space on Trumbo Road for more affordable Housing. We will continue exploring our Poinciana Housing Project in partnership with the Key West Housing authority and how to expand there. We can look at increasing housing capacity at Sigbee Base, and the prospective 150+ units available by way of purchasing Peary Court. We are exploring high density zoning, and partnerships with entities such as the Monroe County School Board & Public/Private partnerships with developers.

Let us keep in mind that as a city, out of the 910 available BPAS units we started with currently 731.54 units are available before reaching our build out limit. This includes the Year 1 and 2 allocations as well as the 48 affordable units set aside for Peary Court. Year 3 allocation is tentatively scheduled for the March 17, 2016 Planning Board. Therefore, careful use of space, conservation of existing structures that are already built and require only renovation, and do not use valuable BPAS, are at the forefront of solving our affordable housing crisis.

We will leave no stone unturned. We will use out of the box thinking. We will be innovative, and we will continue to move forward on solutions to this problem that we have been facing for decades. A good majority of our Commission is focused on the same thing; to give the people of Key West a fighting chance to stay here, and to maintain the best quality of life for our residents.

Number 2: The Truman Waterfront Park. This project has been 15 years in the making. And today, after many delays, changes, opinions and planning, the City of Key West has officially broken ground and Phase 1 of this 3 phase project has begun. There are many things to talk about with this project. It will be the epicenter of our down town living.

Finally, we will see a world-class amphitheater, equipped and capable of serving thousands of spectators on the waterfront, providing a concert setting like none other in the world. Wide open spaces, on the waterfront, under the bluest skies, or the brightest stars. We can expect Entertainers from every corner

of the map to perform here, and an endless variety of those looking for a state of the art, extremely unique venue to hold their event to use this space.

The Park as a whole will serve athletes young and old with green spaces to accommodate local (and maybe visiting) sports teams. Over the years our youth sports have been challenged for space to work with our children. This park will provide several alternatives to our over utilized new town spaces.

Store fronts, public displays of art, green spaces, entertainment, celebrations, retail and recreation will grace the grounds of the over 30 acre jewel that sits at our Truman Waterfront. This will be a gift to multiple generations, a place enjoyed by our Bahama Village Residents prior to the US Navy having a need for it, and now being developed far beyond its original glory for not only the residents of Bahama Village, but all the residents of Key West, and its visitors.

Number 3: The City of Key West must establish ferry service to Cuba. Because of our proximity to the country, a history that spans hundreds of years, and the opportunities on the forefront for both of us, ferry service needs to be a top priority. It will bring revenue to the city by way of terminal & passenger fees, as well as an influx of tourists who are specifically looking for a convenient route to our neighboring country. There is no location in Florida better positioned to accommodate ferry service, for as long as we provide access to passenger only ferry's, this is the only location that can provide one day trips to Cuba. No other city in Florida, even from Miami, will be able to provide this convenience to travelers.

City staff, and advisors to the city are helping to establish a plan. The location of the ferry service must include a building to conduct US Customs procedures. Two potential docking locations being considered are the current Key West Bight Ferry Terminal, or at the Truman Waterfront Harbor. While it will be important to have the ability to move cargo, vehicles & possibly goods between the Key West & Cuba, passenger service only vessels will be the easiest to establish, and these boats will be able to move at a greater speed than those with cargo. This will allow one day, roundtrip travel. This will also help to safeguard tourist dollars spent in Key West, where visitors are more likely to spend money here, if they are only doing a one day trip to Cuba.

We have begun a dialog with our neighbors in Cuba. We will continue to nurture these ties, and move carefully, but deliberately through the process of establishing and solidifying travel between our country and theirs. We will bring a cultural experience back to Key West that will leave an impressive mark on our history and a tremendously positive impact on our local economy for decades into our future.

I thank you for allowing me to share the State of our great City, Key West Florida with all of you today. I thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Mayor during a time of positive growth, economic development and paramount success. Let us keep the momentum of this city moving forward in a positive direction and create a strong and powerful legacy for the future of the Southernmost City.