

## Keri O'Brien

---

**From:** Cheri Smith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 7:05 AM  
**To:** Keri O'Brien  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opposition to Item #12 – Mallory T-Pier Amendment

Please add to the agenda item.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Arlo Haskell <arlohaskell@gmail.com>  
**Date:** March 31, 2021 at 6:42:24 AM EDT  
**To:** Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Cc:** Evan Haskell <evhaskell@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opposition to Item #12 – Mallory T-Pier Amendment

Cheri, I sent this letter in advance of the commission meeting 2 weeks ago, which was then re-scheduled for tonight. I think you may have been out of the office that day and it looks like it has not been added to the agenda. Can you add it at this time for tonight's meeting?

Thank you

Arlo

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Arlo Haskell <arlohaskell@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 12:53 PM  
**Subject:** Opposition to Item #12 – Mallory T-Pier Amendment  
**To:** Billy Wardlow <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Greg Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Mary Lou Hoover <mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>  
**Cc:** Greg Veliz <gveliz@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, <sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Filosa, Gwendolyn <gfilosa@flkeysnews.com>, prusowers <prusowers@gmail.com>, Tim O'Hara <tohara@keysnews.com>, Nancy Klingener <nklingener@wlrnnews.org>, Chris Seymour <cseymour@keysnews.com>, Mandy Miles <mandy@keysweekly.com>, Blue Paper <bluepapermailbox@gmail.com>

Mayor & Commissioners:

We are opposed to executing the Mallory/T-Pier Agreement with the State of Florida at this time (Item #12 on tonight's agenda). We request postponement of this item until (a.) City staff receive written clarification from the State that the City is still eligible for funding in light of recent amendments to the City Charter; or (b) after the end of the legislative session on May 1.

The history of the T-Pier project clearly demonstrates that the intention was to accommodate more and larger cruise ships. Compliance with our charter now requires the exact opposite: fewer and smaller cruise ships.

Our concern is this: **If the City accepts State funding for a project that can no longer be lawfully achieved as described in the grant application, it risks having to repay those funds upon audit by the State.** We urge the City to seek official clarification in writing from FSTED that the City is still eligible for the granted funds, given the potential impact of the amended Charter on cruise ship operations.

We are also gravely concerned that **Key West's pending acceptance of this agreement is being weaponized by legislators and lobbyists who are seeking to overturn Key West's cruise ship limits.** In a House Subcommittee meeting on March 3, Rep. Spencer Roach, the sponsor of House Bill 267, argued that taxpayer funding at Mallory Square means the port belongs to all Florida residents, and therefore should not be governed by Key West's elected officials (see transcript below). Behind closed doors, their lobbyists argue, "If they take the money, they should take the large cruise ships."

**Approving the T-Pier item tonight, absent clarification from the State that the project is still eligible, will handicap our efforts to oppose the preemption bills pending in the Florida legislature.**

Please postpone tonight's item and direct staff to seek written confirmation from the State that the T-Pier project remains eligible for funding given that it will be used for smaller and fewer cruise ships, not larger and more cruise ships as originally described.

Additional information follows for your consideration:

*History of the FSTED grant:*

- The amendment to be voted on tonight includes an illustration of Mallory with what appears to be a **large cruise ship that does not comply with the City Charter.**
- The original application for the FSTED grant includes projections by the City that the upgrades will support an **increase in annual cruise ship calls from 338 to 363.**
- Former City Manager Jim Scholl reported the original purpose and justification for the project to the Commission as "to safely **accommodate larger vessels** and passenger related operations."

*Representative Spencer Roach to the House Tourism Subcommittee, 3/3/21*

"So I would urge you to, to, to be up on this bill, not to mention, not to mention that every single member of this committee in every single constituents that you represent has paid taxpayer dollars to support and fund infrastructure projects in the Key West, under the Florida Seaport Transportation Economic Development Council, which has invested \$1.9 million of taxpayer money into a five-year renovation program in Mallory square. This is year three of that program. So the city of Key West is not operating this port for wealthy landowners in Key West, who don't want to see cruise ship riff raff on their ports. **They're operating that port for the benefit of all citizens of that city, all citizens of that County and all residents of the state of Florida.**"

Thank you for your attention to this important item.

Sincerely,

Arlo Haskell

*on behalf of*

**Key West Committee for Safer, Cleaner Ships**

Evan Haskell, President

Jolly Benson, Vice President

Arlo Haskell, Treasurer

David Dunn, Secretary

Capt. Will Benson, Member-at-large