PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS,   the Zonta Club of Key West includes 30 members that are women of professional and executive backgrounds, who seek to raise awareness of the uncomfortable, often unspoken topic of violence against women; and

WHEREAS,   Gender violence and abuse can affect women of all ages, living in any community, but it is a topic too often kept secret or highlighted only when horrific acts play out in newspaper and media reports; and

WHEREAS,   Violence against women is not a women's issue, but a societal issue, often rooted in misinterpretations of history, inadequate laws, culture, and religions, traditional ideas of feminine and masculine identities; and

WHEREAS,   Violence against women is most frequently about power and control, and we know its consequences to women's physical, mental and reproductive health; and

WHEREAS,   Zonta Clubs are extending their core mission of improving the status of women through service and advocacy, working locally to specifically reduce violence against women through education and awareness; and

WHEREAS,   Zonta Clubs of Key West working along with the United Nations (UN Women) and Zonta International (ZI) and 30,000 members worldwide in 67 countries is engaged in a specific anti-violence campaign entitled "Zonta Says No"; and

WHEREAS,   "Zonta Says No" reaches its focus during a designated "16 Days of Activism Against Violence" which runs from November 25 through December 10, 2017; and

WHEREAS,   Orange has been designated as the official color for the "Zonta Says No" campaign, a color also adopted by the United Nations for this topic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
November 25, 2017 as

"16 Days of Activism"

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States". I would like to urge all citizens of Key West to support work to end violence against women and to eliminate the detrimental consequences it has on the well-being of our community.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 1st day of November 2017.

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Craig Cates, MAYOR