

From: Samuel Kaufman
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 3:48 PM
To: Keri O'Brien
Cc: Kendal Harden
Subject: City Commission Meeting – Discussion Item for June 25, 2025

Requested Discussion Agenda Item: Establishment of the Key West Citizen Advisory Committee for Grand Jury Compliance and Government Reform

Summary:

This agenda item proposes the creation of a **Citizen Advisory Committee** to review, evaluate, and recommend specific actions in response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury related to government conduct and regulatory practices in the City of Key West.

The Committee will be charged with two primary objectives:

1. **Compliance:** Review and propose specific code amendments, remedial actions, and resolutions necessary to bring City practices into compliance with the Grand Jury's findings.
2. **Restoration of Public Trust:** Develop additional proposals aimed at increasing transparency, accountability, and ethical governance to restore public confidence and promote honest, effective administration.

The Committee will be composed of **non-development-related community members** and **randomly selected expert witnesses** identified through published interviews and public nomination. These individuals must demonstrate independence from development interests and bring relevant expertise or lived experience. The composition is intended to reflect a broad and impartial cross-section of the community.

Key provisions include:

- **Open and Transparent Process:** All Committee meetings will be subject to Florida's Sunshine Laws and publicly noticed.
- **Member Selection:** The City Commission will appoint committee members following an open call for applicants and nominations. A selection process will ensure diversity of background and expertise while avoiding conflicts of interest.
- **Reporting Requirements:** The Committee will present a preliminary report within 90 days of formation, with final recommendations due within six months. Regular updates will be provided to the City Commission.
- **Committee Authority:** The Committee will serve in an advisory capacity only and will not possess enforcement powers.

Action Requested:

Direction and approval from the City Commission to:

- Establish the Citizen Advisory Committee;
- Finalize and adopt criteria for membership eligibility;
- Approve a process for public solicitation and City Commission appointment of members;
- Set a schedule for reporting and deliverables.

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