



WHEREAS, the citizens of Key West stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;
- support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;
- build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;
- engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Keys Area, Inc., Wesley House Family Services, and the Monroe County School District provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults;

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool!* a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 18th promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities;

WHEREAS, More than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home and 14.3 million children have no place to go after school;

WHEREAS, Many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim October 18th, 2012 as

“Lights On Afterschool! Day”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Mayor enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool!* and commits our community to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children afterschool.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 16th day of October 2012

Craig Cates, MAYOR