



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: Jim Scholl, City Manager

From: Donald Leland Craig, AICP, Director of Community Development Services and Planning Director

Meeting Date: August 5, 2014

RE: Forgotten Soldiers Memorial at Bayview Park

ACTION STATEMENT: Approve a Resolution authorizing the location and placement of a memorial statue honoring the African American soldiers of the Civil War at Bayview Park, with funding to be provided by volunteers and donors.

Request: That the City Commission approve the location and placement of a statue honoring African American soldiers from Key West who fought in the Civil War.

Location: Bayview Park

BACKGROUND: Commissioner Lopez was approached by a group of constituents and others who identified the history of the African American soldiers from Key West who fought in the Civil War. He then, with the aid of Tom Hambright of the Monroe County Library and David Sloan, approached potential donors to fund the placement of a statue honoring these soldiers. In the course of the process Bert Bender, architect for the Vietnam Veterans memorial approved by the City Commission also for placement at Bayview Park, reviewed the proposed statue description and identified an appropriate location within the west garden and monument area of the Park (please see Exhibit 1).

Exhibit 2 is a composite of the description of the proposed memorial as presented to donors, together with the magazine article that identified the history of the African American soldiers and sparked the interest in the possible memorial.

The proponents of the project have raised sufficient funds for the creation and installation of the statue; therefore, there will be no upfront costs to the City. Ongoing maintenance, though ostensibly small, will be borne by the City.

Executive Summary

Previous City Actions: N/A.

Planning Staff Analysis:

This project would be a minor physical addition to Bayview Park, but a significant recognition of an important part of the City's history. The installation of the Statue will be required to meet all building code and FEMA requirements as to structural safety and proper anchoring.

The project has been reviewed by the Arts in Public Places Board, which endorsed the project and its location.

Options/Advantages/Disadvantages:

Option 1: Approve the location and placement of the privately funded memorial statue in Bayview Park

1. **Consistency with the City's Strategic Plan, Vision, and Mission:** This project is consistent with Goal #1 of the Culture section of the Strategic Plan, "The identification and promotion of the unique character and culture of Key West."
2. **Financial Impact:** The project is privately funded, and will not engender the expenditure of public funds for creation or installation. The City would be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs, which are expected to be small.

Option 2: Deny the location and installation of the memorial statue.

1. **Consistency with the City's Strategic Plan, Vision, and Mission:** Does not support Goal #1, culture, of the Strategic Plan.
2. **Financial Impact:** None.

Recommendation:

The Planning Department recommends **Option 1**, approval of the location and placement of the privately funded memorial statue in Bayview Park.