



THE CITY OF KEY WEST
P.O. BOX 1409
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1409

1300 White Street
(305) 809-3726
FAX 809-3978

To: Mayor and Commissioners
CC: Albert Childress, City Manager
Date: December 1, 2023
RE: Support for Solid Waste Master Plan & Recycling Coordinator

Dear Madam Mayor and Commissioners,

We at the Sustainability Advisory Board are excited about this fiscal year's funding to update the Solid Waste Master Plan. However, we are unsure on how much support the project will get without supplying the Utilities Department with more help.

The City had a Recycling Coordinator for many years. This was replaced by a Solid Waste Coordinator in 2022, due to the numerous non-recycling projects that needed attention, including replacing the scales at the transfer station and getting commercial waste accounts straightened out.

The Sustainability Advisory Board feels that this should not be an either/or situation, but instead that for one of the City's largest contracts and an issue that received its own goal in the Strategic Plan, that both a Recycling Coordinator and Solid Waste Coordinator are needed. It is important to note that the appointment of a Recycling Coordinator is specifically called for in the City's Code of Ordinances.

Unfortunately, the Recycling Coordinator was not budgeted this fiscal year, but Utilities Director Kelly Crowe has said that there are funds within the City's solid waste enterprise fund that could cover this and that he is interested in reinstating this position before FY26.

It is the Sustainability Advisory Boards position that the hiring of the Recycling Coordinator come before the update of the Solid Waste Master Plan, so that the Solid Waste Division has two capable employees to guide the project, rather than saddling yet another large task on the Director. It is also the Board's position that the creation and hiring of the Recycling Coordinator happen sooner rather than later as to not hold up the Solid Waste Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Scott Miller, Chair
Sustainability Advisory Board
smillerkeywest@gmail.com
305-587-9134

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.