



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first African people were brought to this continent in harrowing and dehumanizing circumstances, and, as recorded by an English colonist, the arrival of “20 and odd” African men and women at Point Comfort in late August 1619, was a pivotal moment in the nation’s history. Stolen by English privateers from a Spanish slave ship and carried on a ship called the *White Lion*, these natives of West Central Africa are believed to have been traded for food and supplies and were the first Africans to be brought to English North America;

WHEREAS, we lament the centuries of suffering and wrenching grief of slavery and racism in our land, this anguish having spread through the active participation and complicit passivity of many American institutions;

WHEREAS, we in the uniquely strategic southernmost continental U.S. City of Key West, whose multiple connections to the slave trade history reflect a rare and distinguished record of heroism and generosity rather than exploitation and oppression, now therefore dedicate ourselves to address systemic racism and the multi-generational impact of enslavement and discrimination faced by all of the African diaspora, and, in solidarity with the official national observance, appreciated the commemoration last month of this event;

Therefore, I, Mayor Teri Johnston, and the entire City Commission do hereby proclaim
August 25, 2019 as the

NATIONAL DAY OF HEALING

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 4th day of September 2019.

Teri Johnston, Mayor _____

Sam Kaufman, Vice Mayor _____

Mary Lou Hoover, City Commissioner _____

Jimmy Weekley, City Commissioner _____

Billy Wardlow, City Commissioner _____

Gregory Davila, City Commissioner _____

Clayton L. Lopez, City Commissioner _____