



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Key West has been home to some of the most important poets of the past century, including Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, and Richard Wilbur. American literature has been enriched by poetic descriptions of Key West's history, environment, and culture; and the Key West Poet Laureate is the official poet of Key West; and

WHEREAS, Emily Schulten Weekley is a nationally recognized poet and the author of three collections of poetry, *Rest in Black Haw* (New Plains P), *The Way a Wound Becomes a Scar* (Kelsay Books), and *Easy Victims to the Charitable Deceptions of Nostalgia* (White Pine P), and has been published widely in prominent literary journals; and

WHEREAS, she is an award-winning poet, including accolades such as winner of the 2023 White Pine Press Poetry Prize, the 2023 Geri DiGiorno Prize, finalist for a 2023 Eric Hoffer Award, recipient of a 2017 Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers Conference, and winner of the 2016 Erskine J. Prize for Poetry; and

WHEREAS, she holds a Ph.D. in Creative Writing, Poetry from Georgia State University and a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from Western Kentucky University; and

WHEREAS, she is an English professor at The College of the Florida Keys in Key West where she teaches poetry and creative writing, works with students in an extra-curricular capacity on projects such as student poetry prizes, literary journals, open mic readings, a creative writing club, and she created and is the director of CFK Poetics, a visiting poet series at The College of the Florida Keys that since 2019 brings poets of national acclaim to Key West for readings and lectures that are open to the community; and

WHEREAS, she presents her writing and scholarly work and works with students and poets across the nation at universities, conferences, residencies, and workshops.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission does hereby recognize

EMILY SCHULTEN WEEKLEY POET LAUREATE 2024

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 11th day of April 2024.

Teri Johnston, Mayor