

CITY OF KEY WEST
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD
PO BOX 1946
KEY WEST, FL 33041
(305) 809 -3887

APPLICATION

Name: Amanda Velázquez

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD (CRB): The City Charter sets out the criteria for membership on the CRB:

(a) All members of the CRB shall be residents of the City of Key West and have good reputations for integrity and community service;

(b) No appointee to the CRB or any member of his or her immediate family, shall be currently employed by the City of Key West;

(c) No appointee may be currently a party in litigation against the City of Key West and the filing of a complaint against the City of Key West alleging liability of the City through actions of any law enforcement officer shall immediately disqualify any appointee from serving on the CRB; and

(d) Any appointee who has been a legal representative of any party in litigation against the City of Key West is prohibited from serving on the CRB for two years from the conclusion of such litigation.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you are not eligible to make application to serve on the Citizen Review Board.

1. Are you, your spouse or any immediate family member (children, parents and/or siblings) currently employed by the City of Key West? Yes No
2. Have you, your spouse, or any immediate family member ever been a sworn employee of the City of Key West? Yes No
3. Are you currently a part or a party's legal representative in any litigation against the City of Key West? Yes No

About the Citizen Review Board. Sixty percent (60%) of the voters who went to the polls on November 5, 2002, approved an amendment to the Key West City Charter to create a Citizen Review Board (CRB). This is an independent, seven-member, volunteer (unpaid) board with authority to review and/or investigate complaints involving Key West police officers and forward findings and/or recommendations to City management, the Chief of Police, State Attorney, other state and federal law enforcement agencies and/or grand juries. Any applicant for a position on the CRB must complete this application and submit it within the prescribed deadline noted.

The CRB has a policy of delivering its documents and materials via online/internet communications. **All applicants must have adequate computer skills to send/receive e-mail, with PDF attachments and be able to access the internet and download documents and files.** New CRB members are expected to be available to attend the Annual NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Convention/training sessions to occur sometime in November 2023. The expenses for this training event shall be covered by the CRB approved budget.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL APPLICATIONS & MATERIALS IS

July 17th, 2023 5:00 P.M.

CITY OF KEY WEST
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD (CRB)
APPLICATION

Currently, there is one City Commission appointed position available. Interested candidates should seek sponsorship from a local civic/social organization and fill out the attached application with a cover letter of sponsorship signed by the civic/social organization's representative. All documents sent to the CRB become public records.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM., July 17th, 2023. Email to: crb@cityofkeywest-fl.gov or hand-deliver to City of Key West Citizen Review Board, 100 Grinnell Street (Upstairs inside the Ferry Terminal building), Key West, FL.

Questions: Thomas Pakenas, Executive Director (305) 809-3887 or crb@cityofkeywest-fl.gov. The CRB Charter and Policies & Procedures are available on the City of Key West web site by going to the city website @ www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov and then accessing the CRB homepage via the department drop down menu.

Applicant must be a resident of the City of Key West

Name of Civic or Social Organization Sponsoring Your Application:
(please provide sponsorship letter)

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

Your Name: Amanda Velázquez

Home Address: 11 Hilton Haven Rd., Key West, FL 33040

Telephone Number (Home): 305 766 2676 (Cell): 305 766 2676

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Date of Birth 11/13/73 Sex: M F; E-Mail Address: amandavelazquez7@gmail.com

Do you have a record of a misdemeanor or felony conviction? If Yes, please explain on a separate sheet of paper? Yes No

ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE SCREENED VIA A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND THOSE ARREST RECORDS/RESULTS, ALONG WITH THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS SUBMITTED SHALL BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC RECORD

VIEWABLE BY THE PUBLIC.

1. What aspect of your life and/or work experience has prepared you for membership on the CRB? (You may attach up to a one-page response.)

Please see attached.

2. Why do you wish to serve on the CRB? (You may attach up to a one-page response.)

Please see attached.

3. List your last three employers:

See attached Resume

Employer	Position	Dates

4. List any organizations with which you are affiliated and position(s)/office(s) held. (You may attach a separate sheet or resume, if necessary.)

See attached Resume

Organization

Position

Dates

REFERENCES. Please provide the names and contact information of two local citizens who know you well.

1. Name: Wayne Dapser

Address: 300 Southard St., Ste. 208, Key West, FL.

Daytime phone#: 305-942-6922.

2. Name: Gwen Filosa

Address: 2608 Staples Ave., Key West, Fl. 33040

Daytime phone#: 504-940-4858

Please attach a brief resume that outlines your background. It is recommended that you include:

- Education
- Employment background
- Military service
- Law enforcement experience
- Community service, memberships, affiliations
- Awards and honors
- Professional affiliations
- Special skills, such as languages, computers, mediation
- Any other information that would be helpful to those responsible for selecting members to the CRB

Don't forget to include a letter of sponsorship from a sponsoring civic organization

In applying to become a member of the CRB, applicants must agree to participate in at least 30 hours of structured training, as recommended by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), before participating in Board activities, plus extensive continuing education throughout your term of office. **Note that NACOLE training shall occur in November 2023. The expenses related to such training are provided for in the CRB budget.**

Board members are expected to have sufficient technological abilities to receive, open and read pdf files and operate e-mails/attachments, internet access and ability to access websites and download materials from these websites

CERTIFICATION. I hereby certify that all the statements made in this application, including attachments, are true and correct. By signing this application, I authorize verification of my background record.

If appointed to the CRB, I agree to participate in at least 30 hours of structured training, plus extensive continuing education throughout my term of office. To attend the monthly meetings as required.

I also understand that this application becomes a public record and criminal background check results (if any) are available to the public.

Signature: _____



Date: _____

June 9, 2023

RE: Citizen Review Board application

Dear Director Pakenas,

Enclosed please find my application for a membership position on the Citizen Review Board (CRB). I am interested in this position to serve as a valuable member of the CRB, with the aim of promoting transparency, accountability, and fairness within the law enforcement system.

Throughout my life and career, I have cultivated a passion for advocating for vulnerable populations and promoting fairness, equity, and accountability. As an Immigration Attorney, I have had the privilege of working with individuals and families, seeking to establish themselves in the United States and navigate the complexities of the immigration system. This role has sharpened my skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and cultural sensitivity. I have also had the opportunity to participate in various programs and initiatives that have equipped me with the necessary skills and perspectives to serve as a member of the CRB.

My experience as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of the Keys Area has deepened my commitment to promoting the welfare of children and providing them with the guidance and support necessary to achieve their goals. As a mentor for Take Stock in Children, I have been able to further support the youth in our community by providing them with the resources and encouragement needed to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams. My role as a board member of the Keys Immigrant Coalition has allowed me to work towards the well being and protection of immigrant communities in the Florida Keys. Through this work I have come to appreciate the importance of collaboration and community engagement in effecting positive change.

Specifically, my participation in the Key West Ambassador Class and Monroe County's Community Foundation Leadership Academy has instilled in me an appreciation for the importance of civic engagement and community service. These programs have allowed me to develop leadership skills that can be applied in various settings. Through these programs, I have developed a keen sense of social responsibility, a commitment to teamwork, and a deep understanding of the community's needs.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Citizen's Police Academy has further deepened my understanding of law enforcement and given me a unique perspective on the workings of law enforcement agencies. Through this program, I had the opportunity to interact with police officers and gain valuable insights into their daily activities and decision-making processes. This experience has given me a heightened awareness of the challenges law enforcement officers face daily and an appreciation for their role in keeping our community safe.

In closing, through these experiences, I have developed a strong sense of social responsibility, an understanding of the complexities of working with diverse populations, and a commitment to upholding fundamental principles of fairness and accountability. These skills and perspectives would make me a valuable addition to the Citizen Review Board. As a board member, I would be dedicated to ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect and that the board works tirelessly to address any concerns or grievances raised by community members.

Respectfully,


Amanda Velazquez, Esq.

AMANDA VELAZQUEZ

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY

524 Eaton St., #210.
Key West, Florida
33040

305-766-2676

Amandavelazquez7@gmail.com

OBJECTIVE

To leverage my expertise in community advocacy and law enforcement procedures to serve as a valuable member of the Citizen Review Board for the City of Key West, with the aim of promoting transparency, accountability, and fairness within the local law enforcement system.

EDUCATION

Drake University Law
School. Des Moines, Iowa.
Juris Doctor. May 2000.

University of Missouri.
St. Louis, MO
BA Political Science.
BS Spanish. May 1996.

SKILLS

Communication
Analytical/Critical Thinking
Advocacy
Problem-Solving
Cultural Competency
Leadership
Fluent in Spanish

EXPERIENCE

September 2012-Present
Immigration Attorney • Owner • Amanda Velazquez, P.A.

September 2007-June 2012
Immigration Attorney • Partner • Joli & Velazquez Immigration Law.

August 2005-September 2007
Immigration Attorney • Associate Attorney • Jorge Rivera Immigration
Law

August 2002-August 2005
Congressional Liaison • U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz Balart.

My key responsibilities as an Immigration Attorney include providing legal advice and representation to clients seeking to navigate complex immigration laws and regulations. My role as an Immigration Attorney also involves staying up to date with changes in immigration law and policy to provide my clients with the most current and effective legal strategies.

LEADERSHIP

Boys and Girls Club of the Keys Area. *Vice Chair.* October 2022-
Present {previous Chairperson January 2021-October 2022}.

Take Stock in Children. *Mentor.* 2019-Present.

Keys Immigrant Coalition. *Board Member.* 2019-Present.

City of Key West Ambassador April 2019.

Monroe County Community Foundation's Leadership Academy. August
2021.

Monroe County Sheriff's Office Citizen Police Academy. March 2023.

Executive Director

Chuck Licis-Masson

Board of Directors

Beverly Anders

Theresa Axford

Laura Ciampa

Roxy Castro

Mary Chambers

Bruce Cohen

Alyson Crean

Jeff Frost

Dr. Bill Goldner

Bryan Green

Peg Laron

Chuck Licis-Masson

Timothy Maloney

John Padget

Bryant Pantano

Holly Raschein

Ron Saunders

Tom Wilson

**Take Stock Named
Scholar Donors**

Key West Rotary Club

Keys Children's
Foundation

Edward B. & Joan T.
Knight Foundation

Linda Downs & Angie
Majors

M. Pat Miller Foundation

Susan & Bruce Mitchell

Robert & Christa Murray

Ocean Reef Community
Foundation

John R. Padget

Rotary Club of Key Largo

Rotary Club of Marathon

Sunrise Rotary Club in
the Conch Republic

Upper Keys Rotary Club

MCEF

Monroe County Education Foundation

June 12, 2023

To: City of Key West Citizen Review Board
From: Take Stock In Children
Regarding: Letter of Reference for Amanda Velazquez

To Whom It May Concern:

Take Stock In Children Monroe is grateful for the faithful volunteer service of Ms. Amanda Velazquez. Take Stock is a non-profit program offering scholarships, mentoring, and hope for Monroe County School District students in underserved households, our mentors play a vital role in the lives of our scholars.

Ms. Velazquez has been mentoring with us since February 22, 2019. She has provided a consistency in the life of a student bringing friendship, encouragement, leadership and much, much more. The mentor role includes the following:

- ❖ Completing online training modules and background checks
- ❖ Meeting with the student once a week for 30-45 minutes during the school year, on school property until graduation from high school.
- ❖ Discussing topics with the student which may include life in general (highs/lows, accomplishments, etc.), goal setting, college readiness, career exploration, support, advocating, discussion of grades and insight or help with struggles and more.
- ❖ Collaborating with teachers and school staff
- ❖ Communicating with the TSIC College Success Coach
- ❖ Attending the graduation or TSIC event

Amanda's investment in time and heart is making a positive impact on the life of her scholar. We are grateful to have mentors like Amanda and recommend her with great certainty knowing the integrity she serves her community with will have even further reach with this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Chuck Licis-Masson
Executive Director

"Dedicated to enhancing and improving educational experiences of students within Monroe County."

Monroe County Education Foundation
Post Office Box 2561
Key West, FL 33045
305-293-1546
monroecountyedfound.com