

From: [Karen Adams](#)
To: [Tiffanypellicier@gmail.com](#); [Kwlawyer@bellsouth.net](#); [Michael J. Turner](#); [Notorious68iou@aol.com](#); [joy.nulisch@gmail.com](#); [noles94@att.net](#); [Marcus A. Davila](#); [Mary Gaston](#); [Keri O'Brien](#); [Kiya Tabb](#); [Ryan Stachurski](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: MLK Pool has a historic marker!
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 5:44:02 PM

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----- Original Message -----

From: Karen Adams <kazaussie@comcast.net>
To: WILLIAM ADAMS <kazaussie@comcast.net>
Date: 01/22/2024 5:41 PM EST
Subject: Fwd: MLK Pool has a historic marker!

----- Original Message -----

From: barbara driscoll <barbara.c.driscoll@gmail.com>
To: kazaussie <kazaussie@comcast.net>
Date: 01/22/2024 3:54 PM EST
Subject: MLK Pool has a historic marker!
Key West Historic Marker 112:

You are at historic marker number 112 located at 300 Catherine Street at the corner of Catherine and Thomas Streets. This is the only community pool open to the public in Key West. The pool was renamed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., the leader of the American Civil Rights Movement from 1954 until his death in 1968. The pool's story is part of the Nation's and Key West's story of segregation. During segregation, beaches in Florida were off limits to African Americans by law. The broad beach stretching from the Southernmost Point to Fort Zachary Taylor was owned by the US Army. For decades it was known as a black beach used by the African American community in what is now known as Bahama Village. In 1942, the beach became part of the Navy's Truman Annex base. At roughly the same time the beach and Truman Annex were fenced off from the public in an attempt to secure the base during the Second World War. Making the beach off limits to the public left the black community with no beach access except the small spit of land that is now known as the Southernmost Point at the corner of United and Whitehead Streets. After the war, the Navy retained their ownership claim on the beach and adjacent land. In 1955 the City of Key West built this pool and community center at the edge of Bahama Village. It had ground level space for community gatherings and was open to all. The irony of the pool is that it is situated overlooking the beaches that were once called Black Beach and waters of the Atlantic Ocean.