

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

APPLICATION

Name: John M Strachan

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 X No
2. Have you, your spouse, or any immediate family member ever been a sworn employee of the City of Key West? ___ Yes X No
3. Are you currently a part or a party's legal representative in any litigation against the City of Key West? ___ Yes X No

About the Citizen Review Board Sixty percent 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). The expenses for training events shall be covered by the CRB approved budget.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL APPLICATIONS & MATERIALS
IS July 26, 5:00 P.M.**

CITY OF KEY WEST
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD (CRB)
APPLICATION

Currently, there is a City Commission appointment position available. This position shall be nominated by a local civic and social organizations and selected by the Key West City Commission with a term ending on August 23, 2025. 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., June 27, 2021. Mail to: PO Box 1946, Key West, FL 33041-1946 or hand-deliver to City of Key West Citizen Review Board, 100 Grinnell (Inside Ferry Terminal), Key West, FL 33040.

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

Applicants must be a resident of Key West.

Name Of Civic Organization Sponsoring Your Application (please provide sponsorship letter):

AMERICAN LEGION POST 168

Your Name: John Masson Strachan

Home Address: 901 THOMAS ST, KEY WEST, FL 33040

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Date of Birth 03/08/51 Sex: Male Female; E-Mail Address: jcstrachan@comcast.net

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.

Alvin Fisher
American Legion Post 168
803 Emma Street
Key West, Florida 33040
(786) 908-6626

I have known John Strachan as a member of American Legion Post 168 located in Key West, Florida. Mr. Strachan served on the Executive Committee for the past two and one-half (1 1/2) years in the position of Historian. He spent months researching the history of the Post and compiled a comprehensive written document detailing how the Post came into being and how the building located at 803 Emma Street came into existence. Along the way he dispelled rumors such as the true story of the sailor for which the Post is named, William Weech. It was originally thought William Weech died on the USS Maine when it was blown up in the Havana Harbor. However, Mr. Strachan's research proved William Weech was killed when the USCGC Tampa was torpedoed off the coast of Wales during World War I. The Post benefited from this information.

Mr. Strachan also attended all of the required courses and obtained the required certificates to become qualified as a "bar manager". He served in that capacity during the Post's Grand Reopening in February, 2020. The Post closed during the early stages of COVID but reopened in May, 2021. Mr. Strachan served as one of three Bar Managers through July of this year.

Mr. Strachan has been an active member working in fundraisers and projects directed at helping the community. He has been involved in the Post's "Brown Bag" Christmas events where children of Bahama Village receive food, treats and presents. He has been present when wreaths have been laid in honor of military service and has marched in parades with the Legion.

Another skill Mr. Strachan brought to Post 168 was the ability to identify available grants which could be obtained and used to repair and reopen the building which is home to the Post. He has been responsible for obtaining thousands of dollars in grant funding. This money was sorely needed to bring the building, which had been condemned by the City, back to code so we could reopen and again begin to serve the community.

As the most recent past-commander, and on behalf of Post 168, it is with great pleasure that I sponsor Mr. Strachan for a position on the Citizen's Review Board.


Alvin Fisher
Past Post Commander
American Legion Post 168

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 PAGE

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

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PAGE

3. List your last three employers:

Employer	Position	Dates
OPEIU LOCAL 512	IN-HOUSE COUNCIL	1991 - 2016
SELF	ATTORNEY	1993 - 1997
STATE OF MICHIGAN	LAW ENFORCEMENT	1974 - 1991

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.)

Organization	Position	Dates
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED		

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

1. Name: STEWART STRICTLAND

Address: 2212 STAPLES AVE., KEY WEST, FL 33040

Daytime phone#: 305-395-0058

2. Name: TERRY THOMPSON

Address: 800 EMMA #326, KEY WEST, FL 33040

Daytime phone#: 305-504-4297

1. What aspect of your life and/or work experience has prepared you for membership on the CRB?

I started a career in law enforcement in January of 1974 when I was employed as an officer for the Michigan Public Service Commission, State of Michigan. I would work in a variety of positions and eventually advance to the rank of Sergeant in charge of training. I taught Pursuit Driving and weapons. In 1982 we were merged with the Michigan State Police as their Motor Carrier Division. I continued to hold a variety of positions and advanced to the rank of Lieutenant. I commanded the Stolen Vehicle Team, the Hazardous Materials Team and the Specialized Transportation Enforcement Team. I later commanded the Division's First and Sixth Districts (which were geographic regions of the State of Michigan).

I graduated from the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in 1987. I passed the Bar Examination that same year and soon began teaching on a part-time basis for both the Michigan State Police Training Academy and the state's Fire Fighters Training Council. I taught Civil Liability, Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure and other classes which required a lawyer to be the instructor.

In 1991 I took an unpaid leave of absence from the State Police to accept a position with one of the state employee unions. In 1993 I opened a private law practice (although I continued as in house council for the union on a part-time basis). As a private attorney I practiced criminal defense among other areas of law. This gave me the opportunity to view law enforcement from another prospective.

In 1997 I returned to the union as a full-time employee and retired in 2016. However, my time in law enforcement and later as a criminal defense attorney gave me an insight many people never acquire. My passion for the law and for law enforcement has remained resolute throughout.

2. Why do you wish to serve on the CRB?

I have never lost my passion for the law and law enforcement. To this day I look with pride on the things I did during my time in each profession. If I can help clarify methods or help improve the system in any way; then, I still wish to serve.

4. Organizations which which you are affiliated:

Veterans of Foreign Wars	Member	1999-Present
American Legion	Member/Historian	2000-Present
40 e.t. 8	Member	2009-Present
United States Field Artillery Association	Member	1988-Present
National Guard Association of the Unites States	Member	1984-Present

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

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.

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.

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

Signature John M. Strachan

John Masson Strachan

901 Thomas Street
Key West, Florida 33040
(517) 896-8173
jcstrachan@comcast.net

Summary:

Licensed to Practice Law for thirty-three (33) years in Michigan. The primary focus of practice was Labor/Employment Law and Criminal Defense. Concurrently spent seventeen (17) years as a Law Enforcement Officer and thirty-six (36) years in the military. Currently retired.

Skills:

Leadership/Working with People
Analytical Approach
Collective Bargaining Agreements

Investigation of legal/personnel matters
Public Employee/Employer Rights
Arbitrations/Public Employee Hearings

Experience:

From 1991 through 2016 I worked for the Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 512 as their in-house council, some part- and some full-time. The work included organizing; negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements; enforcing those agreements; pursuing unfair labor practices; representing members during grievances, arbitrations and public employment hearings; filing and defending legal actions in the courts; and, pursuing a law suit based on the Fair Labor Standards Act to the Supreme Court of the United States.

From 1993-1997 I operated a private law practice in the State of Michigan. Most of the criminal defense cases came by way of "court appointment" or as some might refer to it "public defender" appointments.

Law Enforcement Officer for the State of Michigan from 1974-1991. The work included specializing in commercial transportation; providing training in weapons, pursuit driving, search and seizure, laws of arrest and other legal areas; commanding specialized teams; and, supervising officers assigned to certain geographical areas.

From 1968-1972 I served in the United States Marine Corps which included service in Vietnam in 1969. I returned to military service in 1980 with the Michigan National Guard and would remain with them until 2011 when I retired as a Major. My branch was Field Artillery and I commanded three (3) batteries.

Education:

1989 U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

May 1987 Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, Juris Doctorate in Juris Prudence.

1980 Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bachelor of Science Degree in Business.

1978 Monroe County Community College, Monroe County Michigan, Associate of Science Degree in Accounting.