



# Executive Summary

**To:** Jim Scholl, City Manager

**From:** Jim Fitton, Port & Transit Director

**Via:** David Fernandez, Assistant City Manager, Operations  
Mark Finigan, Assistant City Manager, Administration

**Date:** November 21, 2011

**Re: TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEY WEST MARINE PARK**

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## **ACTION ITEM**

This is a request to enter into an agreement with Reef Relief to turn over management and maintenance of the Key West Marine Park.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2001 the City of Key West and Reef Relief created the Key West Marine Park on the south side of the Island from the White Street Pier to the end of Duval Street, extending seaward 600 feet, Resolution 01-259. In 2006, citing a lack of funds to maintain the park, Reef Relief requested to transfer responsibility for the Marine Park back to the City. The Resolution to do so was postponed by the Commission and never brought forward for a vote. Since that time the Marine Park has been maintained by Key West Bight Marina employees.

Earlier this year Reef Relief approached City staff about resuming management of the Marine Park. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued a Letter of Consent to the City to turn responsibility for the park over to Reef Relief if so desired.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

In exchange for a boat slip in Garrison Bight for their workboat Reef Relief will assume total financial responsibility for maintaining the Marine Park and providing educational literature for users. The 2011-2012 rental rate for the proposed Reef Relief slip is just under \$4000. The City has been budgeting \$5000 to \$10,000 per year to maintain the demarcation buoys and using Marina employees to do the repairs so the agreement will save both money and man hours for the city.

## **OPTIONS:**

1. Approval of this request will ensure the long term maintenance of the Key West Marine Park at no direct cost to the City.

2. Disapproval will require ongoing funding and personnel in support of the Marine Park, or;
3. The Commission can decide to cancel the park and remove the demarcation buoys altogether.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Given the enhanced safety aspect for swimmers and the educational benefit to both tourists and local citizens, staff recommends approval.