

Keri O'Brien

From: Natalia Duke <talduke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 8:44 AM
To: City Clerk External E-Mail
Subject: Please include in agenda for item #22

Good morning Mayor Johnston and Commissioners,

I am writing to you this morning as I am very much in support of adding two additional board members to the Housing Authority. The housing authority is an extremely important board with a long history of providing one of the most important and essential services in our community, low-income & affordable housing.

It is well known that affordable housing is the number one issue facing our city. As per state regulations, Florida mayors are the only one who can appoint members to the Housing Authority. Thank you Mayor Johnston for taking your constituents' concerns seriously and addressing the housing crisis. I've noticed that this has gotten extremely political over the past week and I really hope we are all able to see past that to support this effort to address our housing needs!

The KWHA has done tremendous work over the decades, increasing the board from 5 to 7 members does not decrease their value but adds to its possibilities. This will also ensure a smooth transfer of knowledge, especially as many of the board members have been serving for decades, two new board members will ensure its continuity.

As we are in a housing crisis, we are going to have to be very creative with our future housing decisions & choices. New ideas, energy, and fresh perspectives will be needed & important as we move forward as a city.

This is also a huge opportunity to put our One Human Family motto into action by appointing people that better reflect the racial, gender, and age diversity of our Key West community (and ideally keep it in mind when appointing folks on all city boards).

Thank you,
Natalia Duke