



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager

FROM: Doug Bradshaw, Port and Marine Services Director

CC: Greg Veliz, Asst. City Manager
Sarah Spurlock, Asst. City Manager
Shawn Smith, City Attorney

DATE: June 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Schooner Western Union Funding Request

On the June 10, 2015 Key West Bight Board agenda is an item sponsored by Board Member Harry Bowman that is requesting a letter of commitment in the amount of \$250,000 to be used as matching funds for a \$500,000 State of Florida, Historic Preservation grant for restoration of the Schooner Western Union. The request was submitted by the Schooner Western Union Preservation Society and Museum.

Staff, in reviewing the request, has several comments:

1. This is not a budgeted item so a budget amendment/transfer from reserves would be required. There is sufficient unrestricted reserve dollars for this request.
2. If the funding is approved there needs to be some guarantee that the vessel will remain at the Key West Historic Seaport.
3. What are the long term plans for maintaining and successfully operating the ship after this major overhaul?

Staff believes that if the restrictions are put in place to guarantee that the vessel remains at the Historic Seaport and is operated successful, then a commitment of the financial resources to restore the vessel is an appropriate use of Key West Historic Seaport dollars.