



THE CITY OF KEY WEST  
201 William Street Key West, FL 33040 (305) 809-3790

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**TO:** Jim Scholl, City Manager

**CC:** Sarah Spurlock, Assistant City Manager  
Greg Veliz, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Doug Bradshaw, Port and Marine Services Director

**DATE:** December 22, 2014

**SUBJECT:** New Agreement for Reef Relief to continue to manage and maintain the Key West Marine Park.

### ACTION STATEMENT

This is a request to enter into a new Agreement with Reef Relief to continue to manage and maintain the Key West Marine Park.

### PROJECT ISSUE

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. The City at that time took over the management and maintenance utilizing employees from the Key West Historic Seaport and City Marina. In December 2011, Reef Relief approached City staff about resuming management of the Marine Park. Additionally, at that time the Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued a Letter of Consent to the City to turn responsibility for the park over to Reef Relief. City Commission passed Resolution 12-025 giving Reef Relief a three (3) year agreement for the management and maintenance.

The agreement is set to expire January 2015. Reef Relief has a desire to continue the management and maintenance of the park for an additional five (5) years with a five (5) year option.

### OPTIONS

There are three options:

*Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.*

1. Approve the attached Agreement authorizing Reef Relief to continue management and maintenance of the marine park.
2. Disapprove the attached Agreement and manage and maintain the park with City Staff,
3. Remove the park and demarcation buoys altogether.

#### **ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES**

Approval of this request will ensure the long term maintenance of the Key West Marine Park at no direct cost to the City. Disapproval will require ongoing funding and personnel in support of the Marine Park. Removal of the park all together removes the protection that that swimmers and other users of the park have become accustomed to over the years.

#### **FINANCIAL ISSUES**

During the Agreement period, the City provides a boat slip at City Marina for Reef Relief's workboat. The 2014-2015 annual rental rate for the Reef Relief slip is \$4,575. Reef Relief assumes all financial responsibility for maintaining the Marine Park and providing educational literature for users.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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