



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The City of Key West is proud to posthumously honor its native son **Theodore “Fats” Navarro**, who was born in Key West. After spending his childhood and adolescent years in the Bahama Village neighborhood of Key West, he went on to become a superb jazz trumpeter and was one of the seminal figures of the bebop period, often playing with jazz giants such as Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. He helped Bebop make an indelible mark on American culture; and that reinvention of jazz ultimately became the language of all genres of modern jazz; and

WHEREAS, **Fats Navarro** was a musical pioneer who helped revolutionize jazz and who happily took his place among the pioneers on 52nd Street. Some credit him with being part of the link between Louis Armstrong playing and the then brand-new sound of the Bebop trumpeters; and

WHEREAS, **Fats Navarro** who in 1949 won Metronome Magazine's award for best trumpet, and who, in 1982, was elected by a panel of international jazz critics into the Down Beat Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, **Fats Navarro** played on and led hundreds of recordings with jazz geniuses such as Bud Powell, Charlie Parker, Tadd Dameron, Kenny Clarke, Coleman Hawkins, and Dexter Gordon. Many of these recordings featured compositions by Navarro himself; and

WHEREAS, **Fats Navarro's** musical legacy is now documented and intertwined with the Bahama Village Music Program and, as well, is one of our island city's great historic legacies, and forever woven into the cultural fabric of Key West, America, and the world.

WHEREAS, **Fats Navarro**, whose unparalleled musical creativity and exceptional talent has continued to delight jazz fans and inspire musicians for decades and as one of the fathers of bebop, Fats' music will continue to remain vital to the artistic imagination of generations of music lovers everywhere.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **TERI JOHNSTON**, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim September 24th, 2023 as

FATS NAVARRO DAY

in the “Southernmost City of the Continental United States” and urge all citizens, residents, and visitors to join in recognizing and honoring this uniquely talented musician and extend our appreciation to his family for the support and contributions they have bestowed upon our city.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 14th day of September, 2023.


Teri Johnston, Mayor