



[EXTERNAL] St. Mary Star of the Sea Agenda #16

From Brittany Freeman <lsugrl87@gmail.com>

Date Sun 8/24/2025 9:33 PM

To Daniela Salume <daniela.salume@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; HARC EXT EMAIL <city_harc@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Salume and Members of the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC),

I recently became aware of plans by the St. Mary Star of the Sea Basilica to replace its exterior paired shutters and doors.

The current doors, featuring colored arched glass windows, have been part of the Basilica's historic fabric since the early 1900s. Once the interior renovations are complete, these windows may remain the only original architectural element left—making their preservation all the more critical.

If this colored glass is removed, all that will remain are photographs and memories.

While I support progress and positive change, it is equally imperative that we honor and protect our architectural heritage—the very foundation of our community's identity and legacy.

As a sixth-generation Conch and a descendant of the Gato family, I feel a deep responsibility to help preserve our island's unique cultural and historical contributions.

I respectfully ask whether HARC can assist me and fellow parishioners in preserving the Basilica's exterior shutters, doors, and especially the colored glass.

This is more than just a renovation; it touches the very heart and soul of our island community. Your support and guidance would mean a great deal to all of us who hold this history dear.

Sincerely,
Brittany Freeman



[EXTERNAL] St. Mary Star of the Sea Basilica Agenda #16

From Cindi Madiedo <cindinkw@yahoo.com>

Date Sun 8/24/2025 3:43 PM

To Daniela_salume@cityofkeywest-fl.gov <Daniela_salume@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; HARC EXT EMAIL <city_harc@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Salume and the Historic Architectural Review Commission (HARC),

It has come to my attention that the St. Mary Star of the Sea Basilica plans to replace the exterior paired shutters and doors.

The doors have colored, arched glass windows that have been a part of the the building since the early 1900s.

The colored glass will be the only Historical relic that will be left after the interior restructuring has been completed.

If this glass is removed, all we will have left are pictures and stories.

Although I embrace change(s) for a brighter future, it is important to preserve our architectural heritage and history, which are the foundations of our society.

As a 5th generation Conch, a member of the Mary Immaculate High School last graduating Class of 1986 and a member of the last order of the Junior Catholic Daughters of America in Key West, it should be our goal to retain our island's unique cultural identity and our Historical contributions to civilization.

Please let me know if HARC can assist myself and the parishioners with retaining the exterior paired shutters, doors and colored glass.

This isn't just about a renovation, this is a part of our island community's essence, heart and soul. Your assistance and guidance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cindi Madiedo

Vincit omnia veritas:

Truth conquers all things.



[EXTERNAL] Basilica St Mary Star of the Sea Renovations

From Island Integrative Medicine <iimedkw@gmail.com>

Date Sun 8/24/2025 11:49 AM

To City Clerk <cityclerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; HARC EXT EMAIL <city_harc@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear HARC Board,

As a proud Conch and devoted parishioner of the Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea, I am writing to express my full support for the proposed renovations, especially the replacement of the interior amber glass windows with clear glass.

This thoughtful update will allow significantly more natural light to flow into our sacred space when the historic exterior shutters are open, enhancing the spiritual and aesthetic experience for all who enter—parishioners, residents, and visitors from around the world. Importantly, these renovations will preserve the historical integrity of the building, as the iconic exterior shutters will remain untouched.

Our Basilica is not only a place of worship but also a treasured landmark in our community. These improvements reflect a careful and respectful approach to preservation and enhancement, ensuring that the beauty and welcoming atmosphere of the Basilica can be enjoyed by future generations.

I commend the leadership and all involved for their vision and dedication, and I wholeheartedly support this project.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jessica Johnson
Parishioner, Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea



[EXTERNAL] September 26th HARC meeting agenda item: Basilica St. Mary Star of the Sea Renovations

From Mike yahoo <mikedowner2@yahoo.com>
Date Sun 8/24/2025 12:15 PM
To HARC EXT EMAIL <city_harc@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear HARC Board:

As a twenty-five year parishioner of the Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea, I would like to register my public support for the "Renewing The Light Of Hope" renovation program — including the replacement of the current interior dark amber glass windows with clear glass. This improvement will permit more natural light into the church without impacting the historic exterior shutters. These clear windows are a critical element of this effort which aims to brighten the interior to reflect the light of Christ.

Along with my spouse, I'm proud to be a financial contributor to this effort to preserve the beauty and integrity of the church. Please approve this thoughtful plan without delay.

Very truly yours,
Michael J. Downer

Parishioner, Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea
24 Allamanda Terrace
Key West, FL 33040

25 August 2025

To: HARC, City of Key West

From: Kevin Barry, 1404 Leon St., Key West



Subject: HARC Mtg. of 26 August 2025, Agenda Item 16

Re: Basilica of St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The following regards the proposed change of the glass color of the INTERIOR doors of the Basilica of St. Mary, Star of the Sea; which I strongly support.

- The glass doors are INTERIOR doors.
- The wood, louvered, shutter doors are EXTERIOR doors.
- In forty years as an active parishioner at St. Mary; I have never seen the EXTERIOR shutter doors open and the INTERIOR glass doors closed.
- When the glass doors are closed; the shutter doors are closed. When the shutter doors are open; the glass doors are open and folded against the INTERIOR walls and cannot be seen from the outside.
- Commenters speak of the "interior light" of the yellow glass inside the Basilica; this attests that the glass effects the INTERIOR of the Basilica, not the exterior.
- As these doors are an INTERIOR feature of the Basilica; they should not be subject to any review by HARC in regard to this agenda item.