



**THE CITY OF KEY WEST**  
P.O. BOX 1409  
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1409

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**To:** Mayor and Commissioners  
**CC:** City Manager  
**Date:** August 6, 2024  
**RE:** Support for Raising Parking Rates

Dear Madam Mayor and Commissioners,

During the budget workshop, there was a lengthy discussion of parking rates that ranged from increasing hourly meter rates across the board to a 100% decrease in rates for residents. The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) thinks it is important to revisit some of the City's goals.

**City Strategic Plan FY21-24:** Approximately 4,000 residents voted Traffic and Pedestrian Friendliness as one of the top 6 Priorities of the City. Action items include 6 items that speak to decreasing vehicle traffic: Encourage Green Methods of Transportation to reduce traffic and parking congestion; Improve Public Transit; Promote and Regulate eBikes, Scooters and Micromobility devices; Safer and More Accessible Bike and Pedestrian Routes; Increase Street Canopy; and Raise Parking Rates.

**Sustainability Advisory Board Annual Priorities:** "Less Cars on the Road" has been a major goal for 6 years in a row. Action items for that goal include: Additional funding for Transit; Increase Alternative Transportation education; Implement Bike Ped Master Plan; and Raise Parking Rates.

Raising parking rates will have minor effects on locals. The City has Residential Permits (4 hours free daily for \$39/year at 6 lots), Monroe County permits (4 hours free daily for \$28/year at 1 lot) and Employee Parking Lot Permits (work shifts free for \$300/year at 2 lots). Costs for these permits are not changing. The two Employee Parking Lot Permit and Monroe County lots, as well as 5 of 6 Residential Permit lots are along the Duval Loop.

The FY25 budget is based on all parking meters increasing, so reduced/free parking creates a large General Fund deficit and directly decreases funding to Public Transit, Transportation Alternative Fund, Affordable Housing Fund, and Truman Waterfront. There have been great strides made for mobility with Key West Rides and Conch Connect. Key West is one of the most walkable and bikeable cities and we should not backslide.

Since there are multiple low-cost options available to City and Monroe County residents and employees that work downtown, it is the Sustainability Advisory Boards' position that the City should increase all parking meters by \$1 coupled with strong outreach on the great Parking Permit programs the City already has.

Sincerely,

Shelly Krueger, Chair  
Sustainability Advisory Board  
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*Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.*