



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager

FROM: Rod Delostrinos, Director of Community Services

VIA: Greg Veliz, Assistant City Manager- Operations

DATE: March 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Authorize naming the street entrance on 14th Street to the Wickers Field sports complex, "Bill Cates Circle."

ACTION STATEMENT: Authorize naming the street entrance on 14th Street to the Wickers Field sports complex, "Bill Cates Circle."

BACKGROUND:

William E. (Bill) Cates was born in Key West 1915. He enjoyed a legendary 40 year baseball career. His love of the game began as a third baseman, developed into managing, and transitioned into organizing.

He served the City of Key West for over 20 years as the Assistant Recreation Director, Director of Parks and Recreation, and ultimately as Assistant City Manager. His untimely death on May 27, 1975 denoted an end of an era in Key West baseball history.

In 1935 as the third baseman for a Key West amateur club, he was recruited by the Brooklyn Dodgers organization and reported to baseball hall of famer Casey Stengel at spring training. He then played professional baseball for the Sanford Lookouts and the St. Augustine Saints. He was a player/manager for the DeLand team of the Florida State League. He later coached for three years under Manager Pepper Martin for the Miami Sun Sox in the Florida International League in the late 1940's.

Over the years he contributed much to promoting the sport of baseball not only among the youth of Key West, but statewide. He organized the city's Little Prep League, eventually serving as Assistant State Commissioner of the Little Major League and Commissioner of the Eighth District. He was involved in all three Key West High School State Baseball Championships in the 1950's. He also coached the only Junior College baseball team in Key West, the Key West Wreckers.

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

June 15, 1954 he was hired as Assistant Recreation Director for the City of Key West under Paul Albury. Five years later he took a leave of absence from the city job to take a position as coach, trainer, and road secretary for the Miami Marlins of the International League. Returned to Key West and was appointed as Director of Parks and Recreation. On July 10, 1974 he served as both assistant city manager and Director of Parks and Recreation.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION: Recognize the exceptionally meritorious service of a former city employee to the community.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve naming the street entrance on 14th Street to the Wickers Field sports complex, "Bill Cates Circle."
2. Disapprove naming the street entrance on 14th Street to the Wickers Field sports complex, "Bill Cates Circle."

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial considerations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Option 1, naming the street entrance on 14th Street to the Wickers Field sports complex, "Bill Cates Drive."