

Keri O'Brien

From: Chris Massicotte <chris@chrisforkeywest.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 10:58 AM
To: Danise Henriquez; District IV; District VI; Monica Haskell; Samuel Kaufman; Donald Lee
Cc: Keri O'Brien; Brian L. Barroso; mayanne.downs@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 5 Vacancy – Request for Caretaker Appointment and Fair Process

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Dear Mayor Henriquez and Commissioners,

I am writing regarding the agenda item for the **Special Meeting on Monday, November 24 at 2:00 PM** concerning how the City will fill the District 5 vacancy created by the passing of Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover.

First, I want to acknowledge Commissioner Hoover's long service to this community. She worked tirelessly for local businesses, nonprofits, and the residents of District 5. Her passing is a deep loss for Key West. I will remember her fondly every time I walk or bike along the path she championed on Atlantic Blvd.

As a declared candidate for the District 5 seat in the upcoming regular election, I have a direct interest in how this vacancy is filled. At the same time, I believe it is essential that the process be perceived as fair, fiscally responsible, and focused on the public interest.

With that in mind, I respectfully urge you to:

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- 2.
3. Appoint a neutral caretaker to serve the remainder of the current term who agrees not
4. to run for the District 5 seat in the upcoming election;
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- 6.
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- 9.
10. Decline to appoint any currently declared candidate for the District 5 seat, and
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- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. Avoid calling a special election so close to the regularly scheduled election, given

17. the financial impact on taxpayers.

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There is precedent in Key West for appointing caretakers to fill vacancies and maintain continuity of service. Following that approach here would preserve public confidence and avoid the perception that the City Commission is placing a thumb on the scale in favor of any candidate.

To support that goal, I want to make my own position clear:

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- I am willing to recuse myself from consideration for appointment to the District 5 seat
- if the same standard is applied to the other declared candidate, Harry Russell, and neither of us is considered.
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District 5 residents deserve representation, but they also deserve a process that is transparent and continues your efforts to rebuild the public trust that we have lost over the last year.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Key West.

I would add this to the eComment on the meeting agenda, however it is not available yet.

Respectfully,

Chris Massicotte

Candidate for Key West City Commission, District 5

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