



To :Mayor and City Commissioners  
Outline for 2022 Key West 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The year 2022 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City Of Key West. This is a huge milestone for the City, and we will shine for a year worldwide; even more than we already do. It will be a welcome celebration after everything that we have been through, and will hopefully help to bring some normalcy back to our island by encouraging locals and visitors to enjoy being a part of a very special year in our history.

My motivation for this goes all the way back to being in Philadelphia as a kid in 1976 when America celebrated its bicentennial. It was such an amazing year for the whole City, and, living right by the Liberty Bell, I became fully hooked on history. Having moved to Key West in the late 80's, I soon found even more history here and have never stopped looking back. Having Tom Hambright as my mentor, along with many locals, I have always been in love with the history here.

When I opened my current businesses in 2013, Jim Beam 3<sup>rd</sup> gave me a commemorative ceramic bottle from 1972 that was specially made for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of the City of Key West. Right then I made it my dream to see Key West's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary be the best thing ever! There are so

many other great people out there who can join me in this. I am not in this for or to make money, but to dedicate my time and efforts towards ensuring that the celebration of this amazing mile marker of the great City of Key West, and how far we have come in 200 years, is all that it can be.

Please find my request to Chair a committee and move forward with your blessing.

- Create a committee as discussed with Assistant City Manager, Mayor, and Todd from Events.
- Create a City of Key West committee with such people as myself, a representative of each of the business groups, HTA, Historic Society ect., and anyone who would make an impact on the proper execution of this celebration.

- Purpose:

- To celebrate the full year of 2022 starting at New Years Eve and ending with Holidays in December. There are so many events that already will go on for 2022 such as New Year's Eve, Fantasy Fest, boat races , singer/song writer, and Hemingway Days; just to name a few. Having all of the events of 2022 incorporate the celebration will make it financially feasible to have the event go on all year long.

- Ideas:

- Mural and Flag pole at Mallory Square (back right wall), where people all year can get a photo and mark the celebration.

- Commemorative “minted” coins, the sale of which will raise money for a local charities. Another coin (less expensive-approx 15 cents) that local businesses can hand out, which will have an anniversary logo on one side and their own print on the second side. These will make great collectables and bring business all over the City.

- A “cancelation stamp” from the Post Office for March 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the raising of the Flag 200 years ago (which I have applied for). I am also working on a postage stamp, but with the issues at USPS I am not sure that this will happen in time.

- The City of Key West to have logos on all city vehicles and lamp post signs, as well as a welcome sign for the 200th Anniversary at the entrance to Key West.

- We could also plan an event for March 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Key West 200<sup>th</sup> , with such items as music and foods from the past, drone fireworks show (\* with no noise or environmental concerns) and a lot more.

- More ideas will come from the committee.

- Support will be needed regarding organization of all events, as well as guidance to the committee regarding how to best proceed and how to make it the best (such as having Assistant City Manger and Commissioner on committee or reported to).
- This is already technically off to a late start. Once we have the committee in place, then we can also seek out a sponsor for the event. I have already spoken with several interested parties.