

## Keri O'Brien

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**From:** Loretta DiTocco <lorettamdt@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:00 PM  
**To:** Keri O'Brien  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Grand Jury Comment

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Keri, Please enter the following as a comment for the upcoming Commission meeting.

I write as a private citizen and resident of Key West regarding the City's response to the recent Grand Jury report on city operations. I do not represent any organization; I speak only for myself.

I appreciate the City's acknowledgment of the report and its stated commitment to transparency and accountability. Having reviewed the Grand Jury's findings, I support its recommendations and believe they present a constructive opportunity to strengthen public confidence and improve institutional effectiveness.

In particular, I urge the Commission to give serious consideration to the Grand Jury's recommendation for citizen-led review committees. While existing Charter mechanisms provide for internal review, independent citizen participation would add credibility and help build public trust—especially in light of the concerns raised about permitting, code clarity, and organizational structure.

I also encourage the Commission to consider an independent comparative analysis with peer municipalities, as recommended, to provide additional context for evaluating management structure and span of control.

The report outlines a practical, time-bound pathway for reviewing the Land Development Code and improving accessibility. Incorporating knowledgeable residents into that process would further strengthen its value.

In addition, several recommendations related to Planning Board qualifications, training, and procedures appear both practical and readily implementable, and would enhance consistency and transparency.

Finally, while the City's strong Moody's rating reflects fiscal health, the issues raised by the Grand Jury center on governance, process, and accountability—areas that warrant focused attention.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Commission place the following items on an upcoming agenda for discussion:

- Formation of the citizen Reorganization Committee
- Formation of the citizen Regulation Review Committee
- Adoption of Planning Board qualification, training, and conflict-of-interest requirements
- Implementation of ex parte communication prohibitions and disclosure requirements
- Requirement that variance applications be complete prior to agenda placement
- Updates to Planning Department verification forms, including notarization and statutory notice

- Inclusion of approved variance data on building permits

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Loretta Di Tocco

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