

## Keri O'Brien

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**From:** Julie <julesb304@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 8, 2025 12:57 PM  
**To:** District II; District III; District IV; District V; District VI; Mayor E-Mail; Kendal Harden; District I; Keri O'Brien  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Vote to POSTPONE re-entering the 287(g)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Ms. O'Brien, please be sure this email is added to the record.**

Greetings Mayor and Commissioners,

While I wear many hats in this community, I am speaking only for myself in this email.

**Short version:**

Our community needs you to BE BRAVE and stand tall against the intimidation and for the safety of our community.

POSTPONE #1 - there is a lot of legal information and there is no rush to jump back in.

YES to #2 and #3 - these are no-brainers.

Entering into the 287(g) will increase the fear and reduce the community's cooperation and support of KWPD. We support them as our friends and neighbors now. Entering into this agreement will erode the trust we have in them to protect and serve US. It will also make us liable for all the lawsuits that are sure to come. **Please do not put our community, or our police force in this position.**

Please be on the right side of history and vote to Postpone.

**BE BRAVE!**

**Longer version:**

Many of you made the residents of this island very proud when you stood up with integrity and rendered void the 287(g) agreement last week. We knew the State would attempt to intimidate you (and us) so that came as no surprise. Key West is a tight-knit community with immigrants woven deeply into our fabric. **I urge you to do what is right and stand with your community.**

I was raised to be an active member of my community, to pay attention, to be respectful of the law, and to contribute and support my neighbors. My mother is a shining example to me as she continues to work the voter polls, work with and fight for her community, inform herself and her neighbors about upcoming elections, and continue as an active member of her local Civitan group. As you can imagine, she was excited when I told her about signing up for MCSO's Citizens Police Academy just a few months ago. We talked extensively about the course, what I learned and how **my respect for the work they do, and the friendships I have forged with the officers, deepened as a result of the course.** Contrary to Commissioner Carey's condescending and false assertion that only conservatives respect law enforcement, many of us do respect law enforcement, which is why participation in this agreement is so

concerning. I've spoken to several community members who gained respect for the law when they moved here because they are our friends and neighbors and they actively support the community. Not every community is so fortunate to have the officers we have. If we are in this agreement then it becomes very difficult to trust them to protect and serve. We will see a crime (which we thankfully have very little of) and first ask the victim **"are you a citizen?" before deciding who to call for assistance.** Our police force should be protecting our community, not doing the job of federal agents. **This makes our community less safe, which is wrong and is contrary to the work they are hired, trained, and paid with our tax dollars to do.**

None of our residents should be living with the fear they currently have. **Our police should also not be put in the position to feed their own friends, neighbors and community to ICE. It's not fair to them. None of us will feel safe.**

If we do not stand against this now, then when do we? Where do they stop? **This administration is not going after criminals,** they are going after numbers and media splashes. The FL AG's letter pointed out the very cooperation he then says doesn't exist without this agreement. They will NOT stand by us when the lawsuits begin.

We are not a high crime area and we do not need ICE here terrorizing our people. It is shameful and disgusting that they are taking people who have their paperwork and holding them for weeks. **Nobody wants criminals here. Nobody wants people who do not respect our laws and our communities.** The people currently being terrorized in this community, in your community, are not those people. They are active, working, many with several jobs, supporting their families and their neighbors. They ARE our community.

Are you aware that **the federal government is already distancing itself** from the horrible concentration camp they have built in the Everglades? They know the lawsuits are sure to follow and **if you enter this one-sided agreement with ICE then you are opening us up to a myriad of lawsuits.**

Commissioner Lee, you said that you voted with your heart, but I urge you to also look at the legal ramifications this City will face by entering into this agreement. We are not protected and we are fully liable! Please do vote with your heart, but consider that this is also the most logical vote.

You are elected to represent us. **We are begging you to BE BRAVE and stand strong for the community that elected you.** This is *not* just a small subset of the community asking you to stand with us, it is the overwhelming majority.

I'm sure many of you know people who have been living in Key West for many years and have been working to get their immigration status. Have you asked them if they are afraid? Even permanent residents are now being threatened by this administration. Where does it end? We must take a stand and be on the right side of history.

**We have to stand up for each other. We cannot back down.**

Please **BE BRAVE** and vote to **postpone** re-entering the 287(g). We absolutely should join the lawsuit with South Miami.

**Our citizens, your children and your grandchildren, depend on your strength and your integrity to lead the way. Please don't let them, and us, down.**

Tonight is sure to be a packed house. I will remind you that the number of people who are afraid to be there is ten-fold. THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY! Please continue to support us.

**Thank you for your dedication, and your service to this amazing community.**

**BE BRAVE**

**Thank you again!**

**Julie Brown**

**22-year resident, home-owner and active community advocate**

**305-896-6360**