



Post Office Box 4767, Key West, Florida 33041-4767
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October 6th, 2014

City of Key West Commission

**RE: Commission Meeting- 10/07/2014
Item # 10**

Dear Mr. Mayor and Commissioners:

We strongly encourage the commission to thoughtfully consider the resolution being introduced by Commissioners Yaniz and Wardlow to relocate the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter to the City owned property on Palm Avenue.

While this proposed option requires further study and public input, there are some very clear and significant benefits over the alternative site being proposed on College Road.

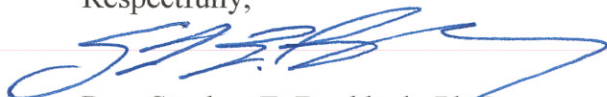
- The Palm Avenue property is considerably larger than the property known as the Easter Seals site. We believe the Easter Seals location is too small to effectively and safely accommodate the population.
- The Palm Avenue property has several existing structures and infrastructure upon which to create a permanent and secure homeless facility and will be a much better investment of tax dollars.
- The existing buildings at the Palm Avenue location can and should be climate controlled for the purposes of health and safety. Chronically homeless street people are often very dehydrated and immune compromised and hot humid conditions will surely result in medical emergencies increasing the burden on EMS and the hospital. Hot and humid conditions will also result in people, many who are already mentally unstable, becoming agitated and aggressive thereby resulting in additional burdens on Key West Police and the Monroe County Detention Center.
- The inclusion of shelter beds for families and children at the Easter Seals site would be irresponsible and should not even be considered. We believe Palm Avenue location may be conducive to providing for very short term family accommodations so long as there is adequate distance and segregation from the general adult population and very tight security.



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Cognizant of the difficulties and seriousness related to addressing this issue, we are hopeful the commission will reach a consensus that is best for the chronically homeless and the community at large.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.E. Braddock', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Stephen E. Braddock, Ph.D.
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samuel J. Kaufman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Samuel J. Kaufman, Esq.
Board Chairman