



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Cuba and Key West have been an integral part of each other for over two centuries, and The San Carlos Institute, founded by Cuban exiles in 1871, was the first bilingual and biracial school in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1876 Carlos Manuel De Cespedes became the first Cuban-born Mayor of the City of Key West, and at one time thousands of Cuban workers employed by cigar manufacturing houses produced millions of cigars that made Key West rich, and

WHEREAS, Key West was the birthplace of Cuba's successful effort to free itself from Spain's yoke, and Jose Marti, the father of the Cuban Revolutionary War, spent many years in Key West gathering support for that struggle, and

WHEREAS, for many years Cuban and Key Westers were allowed unfettered travel between these two favorite islands of Ernest Hemingway, and

WHEREAS, the culture and history of our two sister islands are forever intertwined, Cuban culture continuing to influence Key West character with food, music, art, language, and, of course, café con leche and buche,

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Teri Johnston, proudly proclaim on this May 7th, 2019

CUBA & KEY WEST as SISTER ISLANDS

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 2nd day of April 2019

Teri Johnston, MAYOR _____

Sam Kaufman, Vice Mayor _____

Mary Lou Hoover, CITY COMMISSIONER _____

Jimmy Weekley, CITY COMMISSIONER _____

Billy Wardlow, CITY COMMISSIONER _____

Greg Davila, CITY COMMISSIONER _____

Clayton L. Lopez, CITY COMMISSIONER _____