



## MEMORANDUM

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Date: May 6, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso  
City Manager

From: Christina Bervaldi  
Finance Director

Subject: **File ID 25-3729 Approving Florida Department of Commerce (Commerce) grant agreement** *KH*

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### **Introduction**

The City Manager's Office requests the approval of the attached "Defense Infrastructure Grant Agreement" Number S0282 with the State of Florida Department of Commerce (Commerce) for construction of the final phase of the Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub and structural hardening at the Frederick Douglass Gym in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 State / \$300,000.00 CRA Match (\$1,300,000.00 Total). Authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents; authorizing approval and execution of subsequent amendments to this grant agreement which may adjust grant funding allocations to the City of modify the project scope and period of performance; and authorizing necessary budget amendments and transfers to accept the funding.

### **Background**

The Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program was established by Section 288.980(5) of the Florida Statutes to support local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state, which benefit both the local community and the military installations. Commerce is authorized to award grants on a competitive basis.

The City of Key West (City), in coordination with the Bahama Village Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Naval Air Station Key West, submitted an application in October 2024 requesting \$1,000,000 of DIG funding to construct the final phase of the Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub and structural hardening at the Frederick Douglass Gym. The Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub is designed to provide a well used blue skies community center that can act as a resilient critical facility during a disaster event. The final phase of the project includes an

above-ground cistern, a clean water generator, and an upgraded communications system completing the community center's transformation into a fully operational resilience hub.

During sunny day weather, the Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub hosts its long running music program and after school tutoring for youth. Recent construction expanded program offerings to adult education, nutrition education, and a small business incubator program. The community center includes a learning center, an activity area for senior citizens, a 2,600 sf main hall, and a kitchen that meets ADA requirements.

The Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub benefits both the Naval Air Station Key West and the surrounding community by providing a critical facility during a disaster event. The site has long been recognized by the immediate local community as a distribution point for disaster relief and services. The Resilience Hub serves as a central location for residents to gather and receive critical services, such as food, water, and medical assistance relieving the burden on local emergency services and allowing for a more coordinated response.

The Resilience Hub will also benefit Naval Air Station Key West by providing a nearby facility for military personnel and their families to seek shelter and receive aid during a disaster event. The improved stormwater management system will help prevent flooding and reduce the potential for damage to the installation's adjacent infrastructure.

The Frederick Douglass Gym will undergo structural hardening, including addressing any existing structural issues to improve the gym's overall resilience to enable it to function as a resilient post-disaster shelter and cooling center for both civilian and military populations along with improved drainage for Olivia Street, located in front of the community center.

### **Procurement**

The City will receive up to a maximum reimbursement amount of \$1,000,000.00 of State funding to construct the final phase of the Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub and structural hardening at the Frederick Douglass Gym. Grant revenue will be budgeted in account 6010000 3349000 / BV55022501. Expenses will be budgeted in account 6015502 5556200 / BV55022501.

CRA funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 will be used for the required match.

### **Recommendation**

The City Manager's Office recommends the City Commission approve the attached "Defense Infrastructure Grant Agreement" Number S0282 with the State of Florida Department of Commerce (Commerce) for the construction of the final phase of the Bahama Village Community Center Resilience Hub and structural hardening at the Frederick Douglass Gym.