



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Florida Small Business Development Center (FSBDC) at Florida International University (FIU) started under FIU's College of Business in 2014 and expanded to the City of Key West and Monroe County in October 2018; and

WHEREAS, FSBDC at FIU is a team of highly experienced consultants providing assistance and training to entrepreneurs and business owners in the City of Key West and Monroe County to help them start, grow, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, FSBDC at FIU works one-on-one with City of Key West small businesses providing startup assistance, access to capital, marketing, financial management, government contracting, human resources and business strategy advising; and

WHEREAS, between October 1, 2018 and December 31, 2022, FSBDC at FIU delivered more than 2,215 hours of consulting to 223 Key West small businesses, resulting in business owners securing over \$18.4 million in capital, securing \$7.3 million in government contracts, increasing sales by \$8.6 million, impacting 1,548 jobs, and launching 13 new businesses; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2023 the U.S. Small Business Administration announced SBDC at FIU as the winner of the 2023 Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award, which recognizes the country's top small business center.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby recognize the valuable and dedicated work of the

FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT FIU

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 13th day of July, 2023.


Teri Johnston, Mayor