



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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Ms. O'Brien,

Please accept this letter as my strong support for the proposed resolution honoring former Key West Fire Chief Edwin "Eddie" Castro by naming Fire Station #3 in his honor.

Chief Castro dedicated more than thirty-two years of service to the Key West Fire Department and our community, including serving as Fire Chief from 1986 through 1995. Throughout his career, he responded to many of the most significant fires and emergency incidents in our island's history and helped shape the professionalism and operational excellence of the department we know today.

The resolution appropriately recognizes Chief Castro's leadership in modernizing the department, improving firefighter and EMT training, advancing operational protocols, strengthening emergency response coordination, supporting improvements to the City's firefighting infrastructure and water systems, and championing acquisition of updated firefighting equipment and apparatus.

Chief Castro also helped advance emergency medical response capabilities during a time when EMS systems were still developing across the country and was himself among the early certified EMTs serving our community.

Importantly, the resolution recognizes that the operational improvements and professional standards established during his leadership contributed to the department's long-term success and nationally recognized level of service, including achievement of the prestigious Class 1 ISO rating attained by fewer than twenty-five percent of fire departments nationwide.

Chief Castro's legacy is one of leadership, professionalism, courage, mentorship, and dedication to public safety. Naming Fire Station #3 in his honor is a meaningful and lasting way to recognize his extraordinary contributions to the City of Key West and the generations of firefighters who followed him. I respectfully request this correspondence be included in the public record for the resolution.

Thank you.

Sam Kaufman
City Commissioner, District 2
City of Key West

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.