

Keri O'Brien

From: jack.flats <jackflats509@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 3:00 PM
To: Commissioners; Danise Henriquez
Cc: Keri O'Brien
Subject: [EXTERNAL] item 35 (RFP) No. 25-007 for the Rehabilitation, Lease, and Adaptive Reuse of the Historic Hospitality House

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Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Please find this email regarding the City of Key West Purchasing Office's RFPs 25-005. In compliance with Sec 2-773, (c) (2)(B) (the cone of silence) please ensure that it is part of the public record.

This item is on the City Commission agenda (#35) for tomorrow's meeting. In accordance with Section 4 E of the Rules of Procedure for City Commission agendas, I am the applicant for this city contract and would like to make a presentation on the merits of awarding the contract to my company.

(e) For an item wherein there is an application for a City contract, lease or regulatory approval, the applicant may make a presentation prior to other public comment for five (5) minutes. After public comment closes, the City Commission may call back the applicant or a member of the public to the podium for further comment or to answer a City Commissioner's question.

Hayes Robertson Group Inc (HRG) submitted a responsive proposal to RFP 25-007 that combined the Hospitality house with the cable tanks in 25-005.

The Hospitality House has been subjected to years of neglect by the City. HRG has proposed repairing the building, expanding the restrooms, and installing landscaping, wayfinding signage and public art at the exterior. The structure will be home to the mallory steamship company museum, and the plant a million corals foundation educational office.

Principals from HRG partner with Dr David Vaughan and his team at the Plant a Million Corals foundation (PAMC) headquarters on Summerland Key. HRG is proposing to rebuild the decking area to the South West, outside of the area occupied by the aquarium and create an educational and operational coral outplanting area.



PAMC would manage the outplanting for corals that have been grown in a controlled upland environment for acclimation and easy verification before moving them to permanent installation on the reef tract.



- The additional restroom facilities available to the public, will support a significant Mallory Square need
- . The repairs to the Hospitality House at HRG's expense should be made to stop further deterioration
- The removal of the black prison style fencing and No trespassing signs in front of the "Hospitality House" are long overdue.
- Additional landscaping, the incorporation of the fountain, public art and performer spaces will be great additions
- . The combination of a historic museum showcasing the past of mallory square with the coral restoration facility- showcasing the future- will offer exciting reasons to visit the square.
- Along with the adjacent cable tanks, HRG is offering to repair this structure, rehabilitate the area, institute several of the master plan design elements, and pay the City \$2 million dollars.
- orienting this part of Mallory Square towards the people who are visiting rather than as outdoor storage areas is decades overdue.

The City should say yes to Hayes Robertson Group's proposal.

The RFPs were well publicized. The public, the business and development communities were well aware of the City's plan. The solicitation received the same interest as it did fifteen years ago. There is no reason to expect that a future offer will garner greater interest.

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Regards,

Joe Walsh
305-731-9972