

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO
VACANT CITY COMMISSION SEAT**

Vacant Seat: ☐ Mayor ☒ Commissioner – District 5

Date Submitted: NOV. 20, 2025

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Legal Name: HARRY L. BETHEL

Residential Address (must be within the City of Key West):

1314 FLAGLER AVE.
KEY WEST, FL 33040

Mailing Address (if different):

Phone Number: 305-294-8170

Email Address: KWCONCHBUBBA@BELLSOUTH.NET

Are you a registered voter in the State of Florida? ☒ Yes ☐ No

County of Registration (Monroe County if Key West address): MONROE County

Length of continuous residency within the City of Key West (minimum 1 year required by Charter): 86, MY ENTIRE LIFE.

2. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION (KEY WEST CITY CHARTER §3.02)

☒ I certify that I am a resident of the City of Key West.

☒ I certify that I have resided in the City of Key West continuously for at least one year prior to qualification.

☒ I certify that I am a registered voter in Monroe County, Florida.

☒ I certify that I am qualified to hold public office under Florida law.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT

☒ I certify that I am not currently disqualified under any provision of Florida Statutes, the Key West Charter, or City ordinances.

3. PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC BACKGROUND

Current Occupation/Employer:

RETIRED

Relevant Professional Experience:

SERVED ON THE KEY WEST City Commission
1991 to 2007, 16-YEARS

Community Involvement / Volunteer Service in Key West:

Prior Public Service (City Boards, Committees, or other governmental experience):

1. CIVIL SERVICE BOARD, CITY OF KEY WEST ELECTED 1971, RE-ELECTED 1973 AND RE-ELECTED 1975.
2. KEYWEST HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD 1976 to 1991, 15-YEARS.

4. STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Explain why you are seeking appointment to the Key West City Commission and what qualifications or priorities you would bring:

TO FILL THE UN-EXPIRED TERM FOR DISTRICTS
AND WILL NOT SEEK ELECTION AT THE END OF TERM.
I THINK BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE AS A
CITY COMMISSIONER, I CAN BE AN ASSET FOR
THE DURATION OF THE TERM.

5. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Do you or any immediate family member have any financial, contractual, or organizational interests involving the City of Key West that could present a conflict? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain:

6. REFERENCES (Optional)

Name: Bob DEAN Phone: 305-304-4124 Relationship: FRIEND
Name: MARGARET GIL Phone: 305-296-5388 Relationship: FRIEND
Name: ACELIA PLANS Phone: 305-296-6297 Relationship: FRIEND

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify that all statements in this application are true and complete. I authorize the City of Key West to verify this information.

Applicant Signature: *Harry B. Buckel* Date: 11-26-25

CITY CLERK VERIFICATION

I, *Keri O'Brien*, the duly authorized City Clerk of Key West, have reviewed the eligibility of the applicant listed above.

Based on City records, the applicant:

☒ Resides in District IV based on the review of their Florida Driver's License and Residency Affidavit. *(v) scrivener's error (KO) 11/26/2025*

☐ Is a registered voter in Monroe County, Florida.

(confirmation pending 11/26/25)

Clerk Signature: _____ Date: _____



53 years of Public Service

Harry L. BETHEL

1314 Flagler Avenue

Key West, FL. 33040

305-294-8170

kwconchbubba@bellsouth.net

"I Did My Way"

My Slogan

PERSONAL and PROFESSIONAL PROFILE RESUME:

- I am Married to Jacquelyn Faye Bethel.
- There are Eight Generations of Bethel's born and raised on the Island of Key West. Four G3enerations are currently still living on the Island of Key West, 5 sons: Harry Jr., Tony, Scotty, Robert and Austin, 2-stepson; Jason Perez, Tony Perez (deceased, September 2, 1994). 6-Grandchildren and 6-Great Grandchildren.
- I attended Key West High School, Graduated 1957. I played on the Key West High School Baseball team, and we won the 1955 Florida State Championship and Gold Coast Championship.
- I Served in the U.S. Army Reserve 1958-1964, Military Police Sp4.
- I Retired from City Electric System, Director of Customer Service, employed June 9, 1959, to June 1, 1988, Employed 29-years.
- I Retired from Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Department Director of Customer Service, employed May 21, 1990, to January 2, 2009, employed 19-years.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

- I served on the Florida State Retirement Commission (FRS), State of Florida, appointed by Governor Rick Scott on July 5, 2012, resigned December 31, 2012, due to major traveling conflicts with the Airline schedule.
- I served on the Civil Service Board, City of Key West. Elected 1971, re-elected 1973 and re-elected 1975, served as Chairman and Vice Chairman. Established the current city employee's Pension Plan in August 1972.
- I was Appointed by Mayor Sonny McCoy to the Key West Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, 1976 to 1991 (15-years). Served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- I was Elected to the City of Key West, City Commission, 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003, (16-years). I Served 13-years, as Vice Mayor on the City Commission of Key West.
- I was the Liaison for City of Key West, City Commission (1991 – 2007) for the five Agencies listed below.
 - 1- Key West Housing Authority
 - 2- City Commissioner representative, Tourist Development Council (TDC) 1992 to 1994.

- 3- Chairman, Budget Committee for Tourist Development Council 1993.
- 4- Keys Energy Service (aka; City Electric System (CES).
- 5- City of Key West, General Employee's Pension Board of Trustees.
- **I RETIRED** from the City Commission, City of Key West on November 9, 2007, after successfully serving four consecutive terms for a total of 16-years in office, and 13-years as Vice Mayor. As City Commissioner, I accomplished the following at no cost to the City or Taxpayers.
 - 1- I Built the Skate Park on Flagler Avenue, through private donations.
 - 2- I started the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in 1998, and the Christmas Trees (3) have been purchased by a private donor.
 - 3- During my first eight years on the City Commission there were NO TAX INCREASES.
- I was Appointed, by Governor Jeb Bush to the Monroe County Housing Authority (MCHA) on October 24, 2000, to October 2001 to fill unexpired term, re-appointed by Governor Jeb Bush, October 2001 to October 2005, re-appointed October 2005 to October 2009, re-appointed by Governor Charlie Crist, October 2009 to March 2014, re-appointed by Governor Rick Scott March 2014 to June 20, 2018. I have served as Chairman, from 2002 to 2018, (16-years).
- I am a member of the Monroe County Housing Corporation (MCHC) 1976 to present, 48-years and as President 1993 to present, 31-years.
- I was a Candidate for Keys Energy Services Utility Board, Group1, October 2007, the election vote was tied 1,879 votes each, the City Clerk drew a name from a hat, and I was unsuccessful with the luck of the draw.
- I served on the City of Key West Bight Management District Board. Appointed by the City Commission on December 4, 2007, re-appointed August 2008 to August 2012, served as Chairman 2007. Resigned effective December 31, 2010.
- I Created the "Key West BUBBA" certificate November 5, 2012. (Copy attached to Resume)
- Dr. Karl A. Seger Ph D, Corporate Consultants. I qualified and was Certified as a "Utility Theft Investigator".

HONORS:

- I was Honored as Outstanding Young Man in America in 1976.
- I was Honored by the Monroe County Housing Authority, December 17, 2003, by naming the Affordable Housing Units on Stock Island the "Harry L. Bethel Housing Complex"
- Honored by the Key West Housing Authority, October 15, 2007, by naming the Affordable Housing Complex on North Roosevelt Boulevard the "Harry L. Bethel Roosevelt Gardens Apartments".
- I was Honored by Monroe County Housing Authority (MCHA) with Resolution #18-557 for 42-years of service on all the housing boards in Key West and Monroe County.
- Monroe County Housing Corporation (MCHC), I have been serving from 1976 to present 2025 (49-years) and as President from 1993 to 2025 (32-years).
- I have had the sole distinction of serving on all three Housing Boards in Key West and Monroe County, listed below:
 - 1- The Key West Housing Authority
 - 2- The Monroe County Housing Authority
 - 3- The Monroe County Housing Corporation
- I was Honored by the City of Key West, a proclamation April 20, 2015, to the "BETHEL FAMILY" as having the most family members ever to serve in the City of KEY WEST GOVERNMENT.
- I was Honored by the Key West City Commission with Resolution #07-374 on November 5, 2007,

being named as the City of Key West “Vice Mayor Emeritus” in perpetuity.

- I was Honored by the Key West City Commission with a Proclamation on March 15, 2022, for “50 Years of Public Service”.

BOARDS AND ORGANIZATION:

- I was Appointed to the Career Service Council on January 31, 2019, by the Board of Directors at the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA). The appointment was sponsored by Chairman Bob Dean, and it is a two-year term (1/23/19 to 2/8/21). Organizational Meeting 2/15/19, I was elected Vice Chairman. Reappointed for two-year term (1/26/21 to 1/26/23). Reappointed 2/13/23 by FKAA Chairman Bob Dean to the Career Service Council 2/26/23 to 2/26/25. Resigned effective January 1, 2024.
- I was the Spokesman for the “Committee to Rescue Our Hospital” CTROH, March 2016 to April 2017.
- I was a Member of Keys Energy Services (aka; City Electric System, CES) Pension Board of Trustees for 58-years starting in 1962 to 1968, and 1971 to 2022. Served as Board Chairman for 34-years from 1988 to 2022. Resigned effective January 1, 2023.
- I was the City Commissioner liaison, City of Key West, General Employee Pension Board of Trustee, 1991-2007 (16-years).
- I was the City Commissioner liaison for the City of Key West, Police and Firemen Pension Board of Trustees, (2-years).
- I am a Member of Monroe County Republican Executive Committee, REC, June 2012 to present.
- I am a Member of Key West Southernmost Republican Club, 2011 to present.

Past Member of:

Key West Jaycees
Key West Rotary Club (Noon Rotary)
Key West Elk’s Club
Key West Moose Lodge
Military Affairs Committee (MAC)

“ALWAYS be FAIR and you will ALWAYS be RIGHT”

My Mantra 1991

Updated –October 28, 2025



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

POST OFFICE BOX 1409
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1409

AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY TO QUALIFY FOR MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION

I, HARRY L. BETHEL hereby declare that I currently reside in, and maintain residence at 1314 Flagler Ave. within the City of Key West city limits. I further affirm that I have continuously lived within the city limits of the City of Key West, Florida for the last twelve months (from the date of Qualification) pursuant to City of Key West Charter 3.02. I recognize and declare my intent to maintain my permanent home within the city limits, and in the district for which I am elected.

I understand that pursuant to the City of Key West Charter 3.02, a Commissioner can forfeit office if at any time during the term of office they lack any qualification for the office, as determined by the City Commission for the City of Key West including the requirement of maintaining permanent residence within the City of Key West city limits, and the district for which I am elected.

I understand that the City of Key West may request I provide documentation proving my current residency within the City and district, and residency for the twelve months prior to this date and if necessary the City may verify the authenticity of any such documentation with outside agencies and further research my qualifications. By way of example, proof of residency documentation may include but is not limited to a Florida Driver's License, deed or lease of a residence within the City, utility or other bill, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

I acknowledge that this sworn affidavit is given pursuant to The City of Key West and/or the Supervisor of Elections and that any person who falsely swears or affirms any oath or affirmation to a public official commits a misdemeanor pursuant to F.S. 837.06

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Harry L. Bethel
Signature

Print: HARRY L. BETHEL

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on this 26th day of November 2025, by Harry Bethel, who is [initials] personally known to me OR produced _____ type of identification.

(SEAL)

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC

