



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the month of April is home to Arbor Day, Earth Day, and Water Conservation month; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Key West committed to reducing its greenhouse gas reductions by 15%; and
- WHEREAS,** trees not only absorb greenhouse gases, but also reduce flooding and erosion, increase retail sales; and shrink our carbon footprint by providing shade for our buildings, and
- WHEREAS,** native trees conserve water and provide forage and shelter for wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Key West Tree Commission was established in 1971, by state legislature, recognizing that trees on public and private property are economic and aesthetic assets to the citizens of the city; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tree Commission and Urban Forester were responsible for the replacement, transplant and/or mitigation of over 350 trees in 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Key West and partners like the Trophia Foundation planted an additional 150 trees along our sidewalks and parks in 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** Arbor Day originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska in April of 1872, making the celebration 143 years old; and
- WHEREAS,** Tree City USA has recognized the City of Key West as a Tree City for 3 years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim April 22nd 2015 as**

## Earth Day

And April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as

## Arbor Day

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all residents, businesses, organizations and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly by helping us plant trees and shrubs at the Frederick Douglass Learning Garden on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

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Craig Cates, Mayor