



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TO:** Patti McLauchlin, City Manager

**CC:** Todd Stoughton, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Christina Bernaldi, Finance Director

**DATE:** February 7, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Approving an allocation in the amount of \$150,000 to Star of the Sea Foundation, Inc. in support of their efforts in Key West Recovers and continued support of the efforts to provide food support to the Citizens of Key West.

#### Action Statement:

Authorization of the City Manager to allocate \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funding to the Star of the Sea Foundation, Inc. (S.O.S.) in support their efforts to provide food support to the citizens of the City of Key West.

#### Background:

In January of 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into by the City of Key West and the Star of the Sea Foundation, Inc. to designate the Star of the Sea Foundation as the Lead Disaster Food Bank Unit for the City of Key West. This designation named S.O.S. as the City of Key West's food distribution lead in times of disaster and tasked providing the coordination and management of the receipt, storage, purchasing, and distribution of food and grocery items during a disaster or emergency.

In March of 2020, COVID-19 created a food support need for the citizens of Key West which S.O.S. was able to meet through support through various sources including the City of Key West and Monroe County CARES Act funding.

In May of 2020, in efforts to assist the citizens of Key West, the City Commission reallocated dedicated non-profit funding to food services in the amount of \$143,114 via Resolution 20-076. The Star of the Sea Foundation received \$69,254 from that funding allocation in the form of food staples to be used to provide meals to citizens in need.

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

In October of 2020, the City of Key West presented Key West Recovers! to the City Commission. This plan identified the need for a COVID-19 recovery plan to address rising unemployment, housing, and food support needs within the City. At this time, the City of Key West reinforced its commitment to address the food crisis through the increased efforts of the Star of the Sea Foundation and committed to provide S.O.S. with additional funding support in the coming months.

In October of 2021, the City of Key West received funding from the American Rescue Act Plan in order to support the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. This funding is to be used in several specific ways, one of which is to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic. The Star of the Sea's food support to the citizens of Key West falls under this specific category. This ARPA allocation will provide S.O.S. with the additional funding support as referenced in the Key West Recovers! effort.

**Financial Impact:**

Funds have not been budgeted for the FY2022-2023 year; however, the expenditure will be eligible for reimbursement via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Upon City Commission approval, the funds will be expended from account 001-1900-519-8200 and be reimbursed via ARPA grant funding.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the City Commission approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to allocate \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funding for food support for the citizens of the City of Key West as well as granting the City Manager the authority to establish the necessary budget amendments(s) for this purpose.