RESOLUTION NO. ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES NAVY WITHDRAW ITS OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MAN-OF-WAR MOORING FIELD; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Monroe County has received $1.6 million in grant funding to develop a 100-boat mooring field in the waters surrounding Wisteria Island off Key West, but such funding will expire in May 2026 if the project does not proceed; and

WHEREAS, the proposed mooring field would alleviate unmanaged anchoring, derelict vessels, marine debris, navigational hazards, and water quality degradation, thereby improving environmental stewardship and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy filed an objection in June 2024, citing concerns regarding current or future use of Wisteria; and

WHEREAS, expert review and testimony from former Navy personnel confirm that the mooring field would not impede Navy operations, but rather increase safe distance between moored boats and sensitive military operations on Fleming Key; and

WHEREAS, the ownership of Wisteria Island has been conclusively determined in May 2024 federal litigation, which affirmed that the island is federal property, thereby resolving long-standing disputes that do not pertain to the offshore

mooring field; and

WHEREAS, the continued objection from the Navy has severely impacted the County's ability to address long-standing environmental and navigational issues, to the detriment of the community and marine resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1: The City Commission respectfully urges the United States Navy to withdraw its objection to the Man-of-War mooring field permit application, thereby allowing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with approval.

SECTION 2: The City respectfully request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issue the mooring field permit realizing the County has met the concerns identified by the Navy's objection.

SECTION 3: The City commits to continued collaboration with the Navy, Monroe County, the Bureau of Land Management, and other stakeholders to ensure that the mooring field is managed in a manner that safeguards national defense priorities, environmental health, and public safety.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to VADM Gray-Commander Navy Installations Command, RDML Hewitt-Commander Navy Region Southeast, CAPT Thompson-Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station

Key West, Congressman Carlos Gimenez, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners,

SECTION 5: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signatures of the presiding officers and Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____day of _____, 2025.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2025.

Mayor Danise Henriquez	_____
Vice Mayor Donald "Donie" Lee	_____
Commissioner Lissette Carey	_____
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	_____
Commissioner Monica Haskell	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____

_____
DANISE HENRIQUEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
KERI O'BRIEN, CITY CLERK