**Keri O'Brien**

**From:** Loretta DiTocco <lorettamdt@outlook.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, February 8, 2026 3:59 PM
**To:** Mayor E-Mail; City Clerk External E-Mail
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns Regarding Proposed Commission Rules and Public Participation

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Dear Mayor Henriquez,

I am writing to share concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the City Commission's Rules of Procedure and how they may affect public participation, transparency, and the role of the presiding officer.

As written, the resolution contains several drafting and clarity issues — including impossible meeting times and inconsistent references to meeting sessions — that could confuse the public and complicate notice and compliance. I respectfully suggest these issues alone warrant correction before adoption.

More substantively, the proposed rules place significant discretion in the chair, including decisions over questions of order and whether public comment is allowed on certain agenda items such as Discussion Items or Presentations. While I recognize the importance of maintaining order and efficiency, discretion without clear standards can unintentionally create inconsistency and place unnecessary pressure on the Mayor's role.

From a public perspective, participation begins to feel conditional — dependent not on the importance of the issue, but on how it is categorized or whether comment is permitted in the moment. Even when exercised fairly, that structure risks undermining confidence in the process and in the presiding officer personally.

Key West has long benefited from a meeting culture that is open, predictable, and welcoming to residents. Clear rules that guarantee public input on substantive matters protect not only the public, but also the Mayor, by reducing procedural disputes and perceptions of arbitrariness.

I respectfully ask that consideration of this resolution be paused to correct the drafting issues and to reconsider provisions that reduce guaranteed public participation or concentrate procedural authority without guardrails. Doing so would strengthen both transparency and the effectiveness of the chair.

Thank you for your leadership and for taking these concerns into consideration.

Respectfully,

Loretta M. Di Tocco

Key West, Fl