



Housing Authority of the City of Key West, Florida

1400 Kennedy Drive, Key West, FL 33040
Phone: (305) 296-5621 Fax: (305) 296-0932
TTY/Florida Relay Service (FRS) 1-800-955-8771

Board of Commissioners

Frank Toppino
Bob Dean
Mary Sanchez
John G. Parks, Jr.
Roosevelt Sands, Jr.

Executive Director

J. Manuel Castillo, Sr.

April 2, 2018

Honorable Craig Cates, Mayor
City of Key West
1300 White Street
Key West, FL 33040

Re: Waiver of Art in Public Places Set Aside for the Frank P. Toppino Poinciana Gardens Senior Living Facility

Dear Mayor Cates,

As we approach completion and opening of our new Senior Assisted Living Facility, we have to resolve the outstanding issue of the Art in Public Places requirements. The ordinance establishing art in public places set asides (Key West Code of Ordinances, Sec 4-287) also allows the City Commission to waive the contribution requirement for "non-profits ... upon a showing of a valid public purpose". As you are aware, the Housing Authority is a non-profit agency and I can think of no more valid public purpose than to provide a safe and affordable sanctuary for our most fragile residents, the elderly, with subsidies being provided to our most economically challenged residents.

We have been offered wonderful pieces of art by Key West artists at discounted prices, or even as donations, and are actively seeking additional participation. As described in our above referenced letter, the walking path is installed and over time as finances and donations allow we will complete that project, and the mural and ships model (by a Key West artist) are being installed. We intend to include these art works in the facility to enhance its livability. However, we do not believe it is prudent to use the financial resources of the project for a cash contribution, when that same cash can be used for rent subsidies for our residents.

We request that the City Commission grant a waiver of the Art in Public Places set aside, as permitted by the ordinance, based upon this showing of a valid public purpose.

Sincerely,

J. Manuel Castillo, Sr.
Executive Director

