



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** The Conch Republic (also known as Key West and the Florida Keys) was born from trouble; dating back to the dark days of March 1982 when the U.S. Federal Government placed a Border Patrol Roadblock at the Last Chance Saloon in Florida City.

**WHEREAS** Community leaders gathered around Mayor Dennis Wardlow as the very lifeblood of a budding tourism industry was threatened and Key West was headed to federal court. They lost but never gave up! Mayor Wardlow stated that if the Keys were to be treated as a foreign country, the only recourse would be to secede;

**WHEREAS** On April 23rd, 1982, the Conch Republic flag was raised over city hall and the Schooner Western Union went forth into the harbor and attacked the US Coast Guard Cutter DILIGENCE with water balloons, Conch fritters and stale Cuban bread. The DILIGENCE fought back with fire hoses and thus commenced the Great Battle of the Conch Republic. Prime Minister Wardlow surrendered and demanded foreign aid from the United States (which is still pending);

**WHEREAS** A celebration of independence shall be held from April 19 thru the 29th, LONG LIVE THE CONCH REPUBLIC!

## CONCH REPUBLIC MONTH

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019:

Teri Johnston, MAYOR\_\_\_\_\_

Sam Kaufman, Vice Mayor\_\_\_\_\_

Mary Lou Hoover, CITY COMMISSIONER\_\_\_\_\_

Jimmy Weekley, CITY COMMISSIONER\_\_\_\_\_

Billy Wardlow, CITY COMMISSIONER\_\_\_\_\_

Greg Davila, CITY COMMISSIONER\_\_\_\_\_

Clayton L. Lopez, CITY COMMISSIONER\_\_\_\_\_