

Keri O'Brien

From: Cheri Smith
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Keri O'Brien
Subject: FW: Postpone Item #7

Please attach to the agenda item #7. Thank you.

From: Evan Haskell <evhaskell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:23 AM
To: Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Gregory Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Mary Lou Hoover <mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Billy Wardlow <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Greg Veliz <gveliz@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Doug Bradshaw <dbradshaw@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Shawn D. Smith <sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
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Subject: Postpone Item #7

Mayor and Commissioners:

We request that Item #7 on tonight's agenda, for the expansion of the T-Pier at Mallory Square, be postponed until a later date.

The original intention of this proposed expansion, as stated by former City Manager Jim Scholl in 2019, is as follows: "The Port of Key West's existing berthing structure at Mallory T-Pier is in need of an upgrade to safely accommodate **larger vessels** and related passenger operations."

As you know, our City Charter now includes provisions that will reduce the average size of vessels docking at Mallory. These provisions are now threatened by draft legislation in the Florida legislature and **there will be a vote tomorrow in the House Subcommittee on Tourism & Infrastructure**.

We have grave concerns that the City's request for State funding on the eve of a crucial committee vote will send mixed signals to the Florida legislature. One of the talking points we have frequently heard from legislators in Tallahassee is as follows: "Key West welcomes state investment in cruise ship facilities in their port. But now they don't want cruise ships? If they take the money, they should take the ships."

To be blunt: it is a very bad look to be asking for state investment in cruise ship facilities at this time. While we commend Mr. Veliz and Mr. Bradshaw for seeking state funding to improve our city assets, we feel that this project should be reconsidered in light of the amended Charter. In fact, this project had specifically been put on hold over the last year while awaiting the outcome of the referendum.

Please postpone this item until the end of the current legislative session, or at least until there can be a more informed public debate regarding the future of Mallory Square.

Sincerely,

Evan Haskell

on behalf of

Key West Committee for Safer, Cleaner Ships

Evan Haskell, President

Jolly Benson, Vice President

Arlo Haskell, Treasurer

David Dunn, Secretary

Capt. Will Benson, Member-at-large