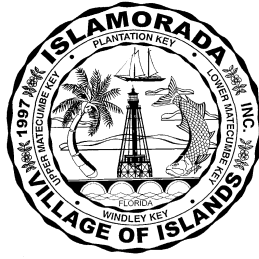


*For Immediate Release  
Islamorada, Village of Islands  
May 23, 2011*



*Contact:  
Mary Swaney  
305-664-6411*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS NEWS AND EVENTS**

The Public Works Department is continuously involved with projects to improve public safety. A crew recently replaced the reflective white stop bars at intersections in Safety Harbor, Port Antigua and Venetian Shores. Plans are in place to replace all the reflective white stop bars throughout the Village within the year. In addition to the stop bars, the recent replacement of stop signs on all four islands completes the upgrade to new federal standard for reflective street signs.

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The amended regulations for reduced landscaping requirements for new pools within shoreline setbacks became effective May 6, 2011. The amendments provide for greater flexibility in the design and location of new pools and will allow some homeowners to install pools that previously would not have been able to meet the requirements. Complete regulations can be obtained from the Planning and Development Services Department or on the Village website at <http://www.islamorada.fl.us/newsite/ordinances/11-06.pdf>.

Also approved by the State were changes to vacation rental regulations. The amendments were prompted by the nationwide economic recession causing some local home values to fall below the minimum required assessed values allowed for vacation rental use. The amendments allow homes with assessed values that met the qualifications for a vacation rental license in 2007, all other vacation rental regulations, to be allowed to continue to qualify through 2012. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Regulations were required to accomplish this objective; the process took almost a year from the initial drafting of the amendments to the final approval by the State. The Planning and Development Services Department may begin accepting vacation rental applications for homes affected by these changes on May 31, 2011.

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Another ordinance amendment passed by Council was the Local Preference Ordinance. Local preference now applies to businesses from the south boundary of Islamorada north to the Miami-Dade County boundary. For purchases less than \$100,000 a ten percent bonus shall be applied; for purchases of \$100,000 or more and less than 500,000, a five percent bonus shall be applied. Complete information can be obtained on the Village website at [http://www.islamorada.fl.us/newsite/ordinances\\_uploads/11-09.pdf](http://www.islamorada.fl.us/newsite/ordinances_uploads/11-09.pdf).

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The newly formed Citizens' Financial Advisory Committee will conduct its first meeting on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The public meeting will be held in the third floor conference room of the Administrative Center and Public Safety Headquarters at the south end of Founders Park.

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For additional information, please contact Mary Swaney, Executive Assistant to the Village Manager, at 305-664-6411.

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