

## RESOLUTION NO. 20-06-52

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE LETTER AND FORMAL COMMENTS OF THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION SUBMITTED TO THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (FKNMS) IN RESPONSE TO THE FKNMS "DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL SANCTUARY: A BLUEPRINT FOR RESTORATION" (DEIS); URGING FKNMS TO IMPLEMENT FWS RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED LETTER FROM FWC CHAIRMAN ROBERT A. SPOTTSWOOD, DATED APRIL 29, 2020, ALONG WITH ITS ACCOMPANYING FORMAL COMMENTS; URGING FKNMS TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING WATER QUALITY TO PROTECT THE REEF; DIRECTING THE VILLAGE CLERK TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF FKNMS AND FWC; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary ("FKNMS") has presented a draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS"), which proposes to expand the boundaries of FKNMS, modify existing sanctuary-wide regulations, modify existing marine zones, and create new marine zones and zone-specific regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") has submitted a letter and formal comments, which recommend modifications to the DEIS before it is implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village Council") finds that the recommendations of FWC address the importance of preserving and improving waters in the FKNMS, while also protecting the interests of stakeholders including the State of Florida, Gulf

of Mexico Fishery Management Council, as well as individuals that visit and fish in waters surrounding the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council finds that the waters and reef surrounding the Florida Keys require protection, and that FKNMS should take a balanced approach between resource needs and user access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council desires to express its support for the formal comments submitted by FWC on the FKNMS DEIS.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2.** **Expressing Support for FWC Comments.** The Village Council hereby expresses its support for the letter and formal comments submitted by FWC in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) proposed by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS).

**Section 3.** **Urging Action by FKNMS.** The Village Council urges FKNMS to accept the recommendations of FWC contained in the Letter and formal recommendations from FWC Chairman Robert A. Spottswood, dated April 29, 2020. The Village Council further urges FKNMS to focus on improving water quality, which will improve the overall condition of the reef, rather than closing access to certain state resources.

**Section 4.** **Transmittal.** The Village Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Ms. Sarah Fangman, NOAA/NOS Sanctuary Superintendent Florida Keys

National Marine Sanctuary, Eric Sutton Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and Robert A. Spottswood ,Chairman of FWC.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Motion to adopt by Mayor Mike Forster, second by Vice Mayor Ken Davis.

**FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION**

**VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS:**

Mayor Mike Forster	YES
Vice Mayor Ken Davis	YES
Councilwoman Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Jim Mooney	YES
Councilman Chris Sante	YES

**PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2020.**

  
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MIKE FORSTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR  
THE USE AND BENEFIT OF ISLAMORADA,  
VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA ONLY

  
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ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY