

City of

Marathon *Florida*



Press Release (#99-26) | CITY OF MARATHON
9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-0033

For Immediate Release:

Former council member, mayor, and businessman Cinque passes

MARATHON, FL (Sept. 14, 2026) – Marathon Planning Commission member Mike Cinque, a former City Council member and mayor, died on Saturday, Sept. 5. He was 71.



Cinque, who along with Karen Dennis was co-owner of The Stuffed Pig, was a key proponent of Marathon's 1999 incorporation and instrumental in formation of the city.

As word spread throughout the community of Cinque's passing, many offered condolences and recollections of their connections with the longtime Marathon resident.

Mike Puto, known as Mr. Marathon, has fond memories of Cinque, whom he considered to be like a brother, and spoke of the early days when both were involved in construction.

"When he was in the construction business, I repaired him hydraulic pumps because we were both in that business," Puto recalled. "It was pretty awesome, and we became friendly. We'd have our breakfast or lunch down there at The Stuffed Pig because he was a part of that."

Puto reminisced about their shared experiences, including working together on the city's wastewater system and Cinque's support during Puto's time as city manager.

" 'We're here to work with the people and help the people,' " Puto recalled Cinque telling him. "He and I got along again very, very well," Puto said. "I would say it was a nice brotherhood. And I'm going to miss him."

City of

Marathon *Florida*



Press Release (#99-26) | CITY OF MARATHON
9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-0033

“Hopefully everybody will remember him for what he did and who he was for the city and the community.”

Marathon Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo also shared a close bond with Cinque.

“Not only was he my friend, he was my right-hand man,” Del Gaizo said recently. “He was a councilman for a few years and a pioneer of us being a city and also a mayor, and he was also my Planning [Commission appointee].”

“He knew where every piece of concrete was,” she continued. “He built a lot of these condos, he knew the codes, the rules, the regulations. He was a big part of my life in so many ways.

“It’s a big loss for the community. He really loved Marathon.”

Cinque came to the Florida Keys in 1972 as a 17-year-old hitchhiking from his home in New Jersey.

He worked in the construction business in the 1970s and ‘80s, later becoming co-owner of The Stuffed Pig.

Through his years in the Keys and Marathon, Cinque never lost his strong Jersey accent or his sense of adventure.

Cinque was part of a group, along with Alan Fletcher, Richard Rudell, and Dick Schultz, called “Citizens Incorporate Marathon” whose efforts resulted in nearly 70% of residents voting to become a city.

Cinque ran for Marathon City Council in 2005 but lost. He ran again in 2007, winning and beginning his three-term run in the post.

He served on the Marathon City Council from 2007 to 2013 and was selected as mayor twice.

City of

Marathon *Florida*



Press Release (#99-26) | CITY OF MARATHON
9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-0033

During that time, Cinque fought to improve the city's wastewater system, the beautification of the Overseas Highway corridor, and helped bring a fire station to Grassy Key.

He was selected as mayor in 2008 and vice mayor in 2009, before being selected as mayor once again in his final term.

Cinque had been on the city's Planning Commission since 2018.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m., at The Stuffed Pig.

Media contact: Chris Seymour, City of Marathon Public Information Officer
Email: pio@ci.marathon.fl.us Cell: 645-206-4368

For inquiries, contact City of Marathon, 305-743-0033