

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2023-34**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE BOARD'S SUPPORT FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT AND CALLING ON THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO LEAVE THE DISTRICT INTACT AS AN INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT THAT HAS A PRIMARY FOCUS OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF AND VISITORS TO THE FLORIDA KEYS FROM MOSQUITOES AND MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES.

WHEREAS, Monroe County, Florida is the southernmost county in the State of Florida and the continental United States and includes the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys is a tropical island chain spanning over 210 miles long from Elliott Key to the Dry Tortugas; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys are a major tourist destination drawing visitors from all over the globe and generating an average of \$120 million in sales and bed tax revenue for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Tourism's value to State of Florida and the Florida Keys is over \$2.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, the climate of the Florida Keys supports over 48 species of mosquitoes; and

WHEREAS, those mosquitoes carry Zika, Dengue, Malaria, Encephalitis, Chikungunya, and other mosquito-borne, diseases which can be extremely harmful to human health if not addressed promptly and professionally; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys archipelago would be virtually uninhabitable were it not for mosquito control activities currently undertaken by the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (hereinafter "FKMCD" or "the District"); and

WHEREAS, the tourist economy of the Florida Keys would plummet without the mosquito control activities currently undertaken by the District, thus depriving the State of approximately \$120 million in revenue annually, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys has been designated as one of two Areas of Critical State Concern, contains several threatened and endangered species, is surrounded by a National Marine Sanctuary, and contains the only living coral reef system in the continental United States and therefore mosquito control must be conducted in a highly technical and environmentally sensitive manner; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature originally established, by public referendum the FKMCD as an independent special district in 1949. The District was then known as the Monroe County Anti-Mosquito District; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (“OPPAGA”) of the Florida Legislature recently notified the FKMCD’s Executive Director, as well as the County Mayor, the County Administrator, and the County Attorney that OPPAGA had selected a vendor to conduct a performance review of the District; and

WHEREAS, not every county in Florida enjoys the benefits of a professionally run, independent special district charged solely with combatting mosquitoes and the associated illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Monroe County benefit from an independent special district focused solely on combatting mosquitoes and their associated illnesses; and

WHEREAS, because the FKMCD is an independent special district focused solely on combatting mosquitoes and their associated illnesses, the district is a pioneer in developing cutting edge techniques for controlling mosquitoes, which is especially important given the fragile ecosystems found in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon, Florida could not assume the duties of the FKMCD and the County Commission does not possess the technical expertise currently possessed by the FKMCD Board nor does County staff possess the professional and technical expertise possessed by FKMCD staff; and

WHEREAS, if mosquito control duties were turned over to the Monroe County Commission, those responsibilities would compete for funding with the many other worthy priorities that the County Commission currently funds;

WHEREAS, it for the health, safety, and welfare and in the best interest of its citizens that the City of Marathon, Florida adopts this Resolution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City Council expresses its unqualified support for the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, its Board, and its staff; and

Section 3. The City of Marathon, Florida urges the Florida Legislature to leave mosquito control responsibilities in the more than capable hands of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District; and

Section 4. The Clerk is directed to send this resolution to:

Governor Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
Florida Senate President
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez
314 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Jim Mooney
The Honorable Jim Mooney
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

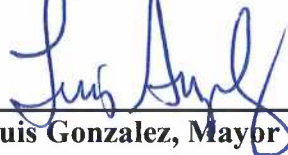
The Honorable Paul Renner
Florida House Speaker
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

PK Jameson, Coordinator
Office of Program Policy Analysis
& Government Accountability
& Government Accountability
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1475

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon signature by the Mayor.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Luis Gonzalez, Mayor

AYES: Smith, Still, Matlock, Landry, Gonzalez
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


ATTEST:



Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:



Steve Williams, City Attorney