

RESOLUTION 2022 – 002

A RESOLUTION OF THE KEY LARGO FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CONFIRMING THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ON THE DISTRICT'S NOVEMBER 2022 MILLAGE REFERENDUM, CONFIRMING OFFICIAL MESSAGING OF THE DISTRICT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Key Largo Fire & Emergency Medical Services District (the "District") is legislatively charged with the provision of fire protection and firefighting services, rescue services and emergency medical services to the residents of Key Largo, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is organized and holds all legal powers set forth by Chapters 189, 191, and 2005-329, Florida Statutes, including but not limited to the annual levy of ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, the District's enabling legislation, Chapter 2005-329, Florida Statutes, provides the District with authority to levy ad valorem taxes in an amount not to exceed one (1) mill by annual resolution of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the District's enabling legislation provides that the District may levy ad valorem taxes in an amount above one (1) mill if such increase is approved by the majority of voters voting in a referendum election; and

WHEREAS, on or about February 28, 2022, the District Board approved Resolution 2022-001, authorizing placement of a referendum before the voters of Key Largo at the November 2022 election seeking approval of revised maximum millage rate of 2.00 mills; and

WHEREAS, the District Board wishes to confirm its official position on said referendum to allow individual Commissioners to communicate to the public the importance of voting on this referendum in the upcoming election; and

WHEREAS, District Resolution 2018-007 ('Board Unity Policy') allowing individual Commissioners to act in the name of the Board when such action has been authorized by specific official instructions of the Board approved by a majority of voting members; and

WHEREAS, the District Board intends that this Resolution provide specific official instructions confirming the Board's position on the upcoming millage referendum;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KEY LARGO FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Effective Date

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon the adoption by the District Board.

2. Exemption from District Resolution 2018-007 (Board Unity Policy)

Adoption of this Resolution shall constitute approval by the District Board for individual Commissioners to represent to the public that certain statements concerning the November 2022 millage referendum, as specified herein, are the formal position of the District Board as a whole. Commissioners who represent that any statement approved by this Resolution is attributable to the Board as a whole shall not be found in violation of the Board Unity Policy.

3. District Position on Millage Referendum:



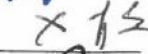

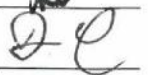
Upon adoption of this Resolution, the District Board authorizes individual Commissioners to represent to the public that the District Board seeks voter approval of a referendum on November 8, 2022, seeking to increase the maximum millage rate of the Key Largo Fire & Emergency Medical Services District from 1.00 mills to 2.00 mills. The District Board hereby adopts the following statements as its official position on the November 2022 millage referendum:

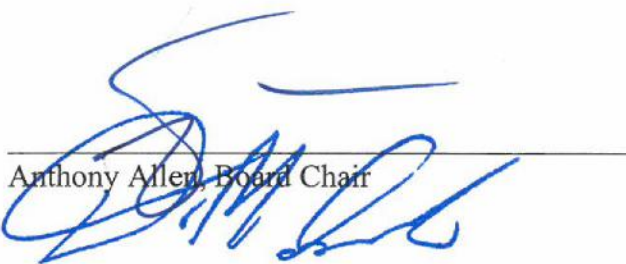
- The District has operated successfully on a budget built upon a millage rate of less than 1.00 mills since it was first founded in 2005. The District Board pledges to continue this policy and practice of fiscal responsibility if the referendum is approved. The District has developed a five-year operating plan that contemplates a millage rate of significantly less than the proposed maximum of 2.00 mills for many years. This one time increase in maximum millage rate is necessary for the continued operations of the District, but will be utilized responsibly and will serve the needs of Key Largo residents for years to come. We need the support and understanding of Key Largo taxpayers.
- Since the District was founded in 2005, the District has operated primarily with a volunteer-based staffing system. Unfortunately, the amount of full-time residents in Key Largo has increased dramatically since then, while the amount of affordable housing is dwindling. This change in community makeup has increased the cost of labor, and increased local demand for capital infrastructure, such as District fire stations
- Staffing: with decreasing numbers of volunteers over the years, and due to enhanced state guidelines concerning required training and credentials for fire and EMS personnel, it is imperative that the District hire additional paid and career staff. This is crucial to ensure


the continued ability of the Ambulance Corps and Fire Department to maintain the proper amount of staff to meet operational needs that will provide a consistent level of service each day to the District's entire service area, from MM 95 to MM 112 on US1 and the three-way intersection on Card Sound Road. The ability to offer competitive compensation and benefits in comparison to other agencies in the Keys and South Florida is paramount to the future of the District.

- Over the past ten (10) years, Monroe County has experienced a surge of population growth, with an approximately fifteen percent (15%) increase in full-time residents and an approximately forty five percent (45%) increase in housing costs between 2010 and 2020. Combined with the seasonal fluctuations in travelers and visitors to the Keys, these changes in local population have resulted in a dramatic rise in call volume that the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps are expected to respond to. The millage increase requested by the District will allow the District to meet the rising demand for fire and EMS services and prepare for future changes in makeup of the local community.
- Equipment & Infrastructure: Increased millage is crucial to ensuring that the Departments are equipped with the latest essential supplies, such as trucks, supplies, tools, and fixed infrastructure. The District will utilize the increased millage to acquire new infrastructure and expand existing infrastructure, such as improvements to and expansion of some of the District's fire rescue stations. The District would further use the increased millage to ensure that the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps are furnished with up-to-date, cutting-edge equipment that will assist in providing the greatest level of service to the community, most notably the addition of a third rescue vehicle to provide enhanced services to northern Key Largo.

DULY ADOPTED by the Key Largo Fire & EMS District Board of Commissioners this 23rd day of May, 2022.

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|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| Board Chair Anthony Allen | NO _____ | YES <u></u> |
| Vice-Chair George Mirabella | NO _____ | YES <u></u> |
| Secretary Kenneth Edge | NO _____ | YES <u></u> |
| Commissioner Daniel Powers | NO _____ | YES <u></u> |
| Commissioner Frank Conklin | NO _____ | YES <u></u> |


Anthony Allen, Board Chair


District Attorney