

City of Key Colony Beach

PO Box 510141 Key Colony Beach, Florida • Phone# 305-289-1212 • Fax# 305-289-1767



MAYOR's MESSAGE JULY 15, 2019

Neighbors and friends,

I have many things to update you on since my last posting the end of April.

First, we said a very fond and heartfelt thank you to our City Clerk, Kathryn McCullough who retired the end of June, only to immediately volunteer to be a member of our Code Enforcement Board. We will miss her doing a great job on a daily basis, but happy to still have her as a neighbor and volunteer.

The Staff and Commission are in the middle of the 2019/2020 FY budget preparations that will end with two hearings in September. As you know, our City is still working hard recovering from Hurricane Irma and keeping up with a building boom of close to 30 new residential permits this year. We are also looking at a condo redevelopment that will include 13 additional units across from the Key Colony Inn. KCB is growing fast and changing as our owners bring online more vacation rental houses. These are great challenges for our Commission and Staff to make sure the character of KCB does not change as we grow and add more rentals. The consensus of the Commission at this point is to not raise our millage rate but voted in June to raise short term rental business taxes 20%. City Hall is the only infrastructure project in the budget.

The Commission received qualification packages from five architect/engineers to help us with City Hall project and will be interviewing them in August. We also accepted bids to build and equip our sewer plant's budgeted new UV building (damaged by Irma) and build our ADA restrooms at Sunset Park.

We have been pushing hard with FEMA and FDEM (Florida Department of Emergency Management) to receive our promised hurricane recovery funding and obtain a decision on our City Hall project. The City has received \$139,000 and are close to receiving another \$316,000 in obligated funds. Another large amount is the \$1.68 million debris removal funds that are at final review by FDEM. Our Administrator, Chris, was in Tallahassee last month and had discussions with them on the three debris removal work packages. I also told our Lieutenant Governor last month, when she was in town, how important it was to receive funding soonest. She and the Governor have pledged to streamline the process.

Regarding City Hall, the Commission will be having a workshop Friday, July 19 at 1pm, where our consultant will brief us on FEMA's latest decision concerning rebuilding

options. FEMA wants us to replace the building two-three feet above base flood elevation and is working on funding for an estimated total project cost of \$3.27 million with a decision delivery date of December 2019. Of the \$3.27 million, \$123K comes from insurance proceeds, \$2.36 million in federal net cost, and 393K in state net cost. This is new information that can and will change as FEMA continues their reviews and we provide feedback. I will keep you informed as we learn more and develop architectural plans.