

THE CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH

The City of Key Colony Beach asks for the public’s compliance with its sea turtle lighting recommendations, and Monroe County Ordinance Sec. 12-116, to protect the endangered sea turtles that regularly nest on our fabulous beaches.

Sea turtle nesting period ranges from April 15th to Oct. 31st.

“AFTER 9, IT’S TURTLE TIME” — help keep the beaches dark all summer long.

In partnership with the City of Key Colony Beach, Save-a-Turtle and its team of volunteers monitor the City beaches marking off nests to protect them from disturbance. The City of Key Colony Beach asks residents and visitors to keep Key Colony beaches dark and free of hazards for the nesting sea turtles as you enjoy our wonderful beaches.

Artificial lights that are visible from the beach pose a deadly threat to sea turtles, and cause thousands of hatchlings to die each year on Florida beaches. Hatchlings emerge after dark, using the light of the night sky over the ocean to navigate to the water. Artificial lights may cause them to crawl away from the ocean and toward a light source on land. Additionally, light disturbances may cause adult female turtles to become disoriented leading to a false crawl, where the female fails to lay her eggs and returns to the ocean.

The City of Key Colony Beach urges the public to do its part to help protect sea turtles by minimizing artificial lighting disturbance by using long-wavelength light (560 nanometers or greater; orange, red, or amber LED) and shielded downward-facing fixtures. This turtle-friendly lighting is not easily detected by sea turtles, but still provides sufficient lighting for human safety.

Protect sea turtles by turning lights off after dark, shielding seaward-facing light fixtures and ensuring that all exterior beachfront lighting is compliant with the City’s beachfront lighting recommendations and applicable County Ordinance Sec. 12-116.

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To learn more about Monroe countywide regulation Sec. 12-116 - “Standards for exterior artificial lighting”, which applies to Key Colony Beach, and was adopted to prevent exterior artificial lighting from disorienting sea turtles within the jurisdictional boundaries of Monroe County, please follow this link:

https://library.municode.com/fl/monroe_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH12ENNAREPR_ARTVSETUPR_S12-116STEXARLI

And visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Foundation

at <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you- conserve/lighting/criteria/certified> to find compliant lights and fixtures.

Please note: Sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect them. Violations of wildlife ordinances may be subject to city, state and federal penalties and should be reported immediately to the Key Colony Beach Police Department or FWC.