08-20-2026 Citizen Correspondence – Regular Meeting

The City Commission received the following correspondence:

- July 20, 2026: Gail Alter wrote to the Recreation Committee and City Commission expressing appreciation for the improvements made to the golf course and the renewal of Daryl Rice's contract.

- July 22, 2026: Dick Harper wrote to the City Commission regarding a potential prosecution and settlement agreement concerning 680 11th Street.

- August 13, 2026: Lynne Benton wrote to the City Commission suggesting the creation of a newsletter for Key Colony Beach.

All correspondence has been distributed to the City Commission and will be included in the official minutes of today's meeting.

Sincerely,

Silvia Roussin
City Clerk

Dear KCB commissioners and
Recreation Committee,

Thank you so much for
All the improvements made on
The KCB golf course. Renewing
Daryl's contract was especially
important as he does a great
job Running Course. All the new
equipment will help him do his
job even better. The porch
furniture Really enhances
The porch. The new shrubs
look good And help with safety.

(Over)

I know all the ladies in
The Wednesday League Appreciate
All The improvements.

Thanks Again,
Gail Alter

american greetings

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RICHARD B. HARPER
680 11TH STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 510193
KEY COLONY BEACH, FL 33051
305.743.8829

July 22, 2026

Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Colonell, Commissioners Diehl, Difransico, and Harding,
City Administrator Bartus, and Building Official Loreno
City of Key Colony Beach, Florida

Re: 680 11th Street Prosecution and
Settlement Agreement

Dear Commissioners and staff:

I'm writing to follow up on my recent letter which annoyed or aggrieved the current commissioners and city officials. That was never my intent.

My goal in writing was solely to speak truth to power, to inform, not to offend. I am simply raising concerns I believe are important, in the hope of contributing constructively to a conversation about issues that matter to our community. I recognize that my letter came across as more pointed than I intended, and for that I apologize.

I want to be clear that my family has called KCB home for more than 40 years, and my concerns come from a place of care for this city, not criticism of individuals. I hope we can move forward on better footing, and I remain committed to engaging with the commission in a constructive, respectful, and ethical way going forward. To that end, I'll send along some history and facts separately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard B. Harper

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July 22, 2026

Mayor Foster, Vice Mayor Colonell, Commissioners Diehl, Difransico, and Harding,
City Administrator Bartus, and Building Official Loreno
City of Key Colony Beach, Florida

Re: 680 11th Street Prosecution and
Settlement Agreement

Dear Commissioners and staff:

I am writing again to offer facts and the history this commission and current city officials may not be aware of.

In the spirit of providing information, let's look at the questions asked and statements made at the commission meeting.

Vice Mayor Colonell asked if there was a chance of compromise on the fines. The City has maintained a proprietary interest in the fine revenues. In this recent meeting alone, three commissioners expressed the need for fines and penalties five times. Please note that I have compromised and it was a big step. I agreed to pay the code board fine from the day it was imposed to the day the city stopped me from working. Any reasonable person understands that the City can't prohibit me from working and then fine me for not working. Since it is well known that I did not violate the stop work order, the other fines should be forgiven.

Commissioner Diehl asked about occupancy. Florida is very protective of homeowner rights and this is a biggie. Former KCB officials violated due process when they first took punitive action against me without legally revoking my Certificate of Occupancy. Despite past and current claims, voiding a CO doesn't happen automagically. And then those same officials pulled the wool over the court's eyes about it. Everything the city has done since is based on the fruit of that poisonous tree.

And, sadly, Mayor Foster misspoke about tolling. "It's in a ruling that came out," he said.. That is incorrect. None of the rulings adjudicated tolling; they simply denied the lawyering. The Final Order never mentioned tolling. The appeal held that the tolling could not be addressed in the appeal. And the order denying a constitutional writ declared the tolling question was a "collateral attack." My permit had been automatically tolled by a state of emergency when the prior city officials violated me. I timely claimed (and have continued to claim) extended tolling.

By the way, city officials including Raspe and Goldman apparently began this selective prosecution for their own reasons. Mine appears to be the only case of a so-called expired permit sent to court. Adding to that, many KCB houses damaged in Irma had to tear out and replace kitchens, bathrooms, electrical systems and more, all requirements of a CO, but those owners were not thrown out of their homes. City officials have selectively done that to me despite this home never being without a kitchen, bathroom, or other necessities--even when we took the roof off. You are now forced to deal with those earlier, uncounted behaviors.

Your predecessors originated these actions and more. They tarnished the gem. It is now up to you. You can either decide to keep punishing me for the "crimes" they fabricated or you can fix the problem. I hope you will fix the problem. It is the honorable thing to do.

I hope you will read these words in the spirit I have written. The CO information is just that. As Commissioner DiFransico noted, I have agreed to accept a new one. The tolling information is just that as well. I will to accept a new permit governed by the 6th edition of the FBC since that controls this project. We also handled the inspection and construction requirements. The fines may remain a sticking point but I think I have given you enough information to approve my recommendations.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Harper

Silvia Roussin

From: Lynne Conkling <lynne@conklinglaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 12:13 PM
To: Silvia Roussin
Subject: CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH NEWSLETTER

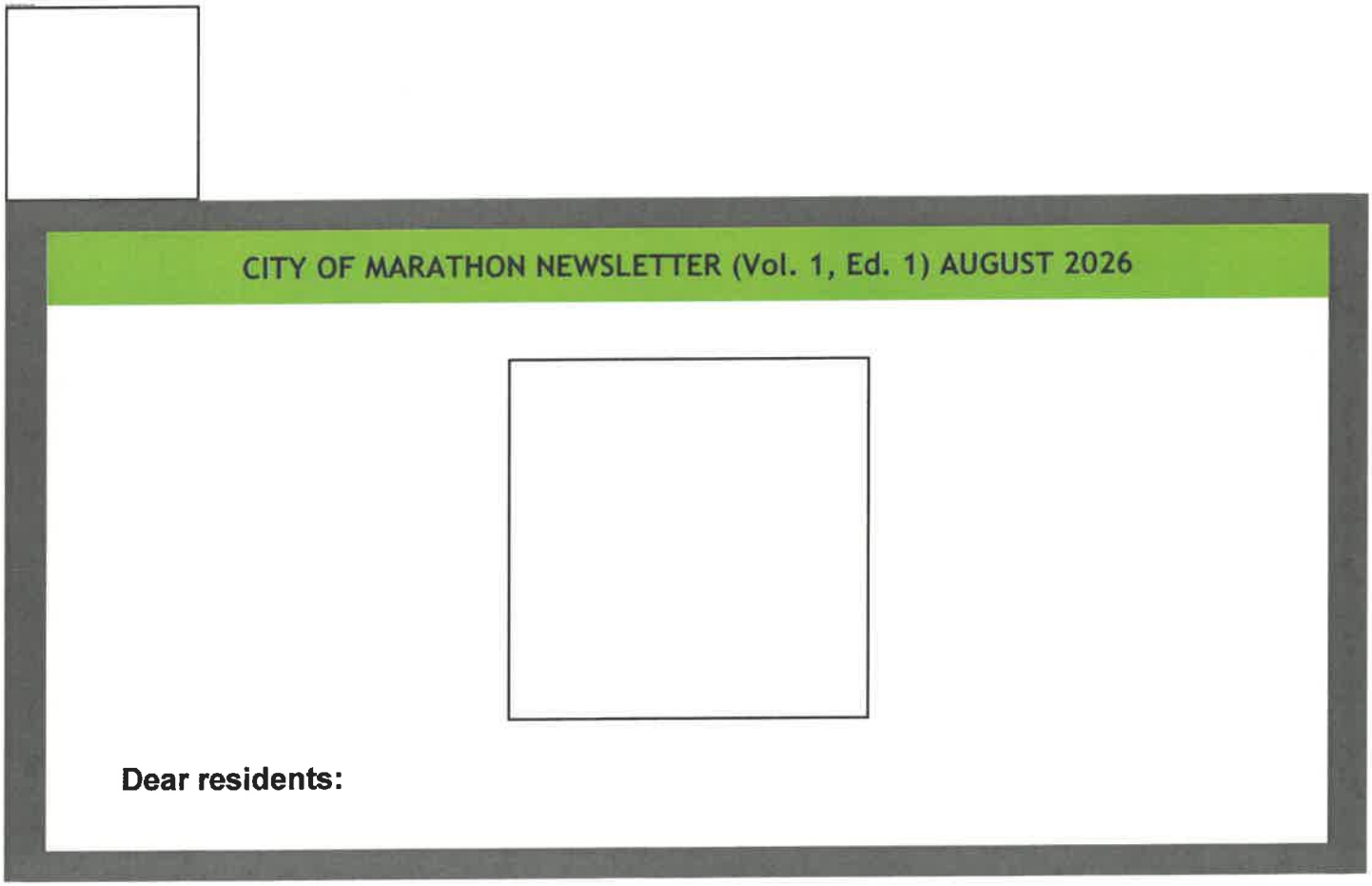
Hi Silvia,

Would you forward this to the Commissioners for consideration to create a similar newsletter for Key Colony Beach?

If Key Colony Beach decided to create a newsletter, I volunteer to help and know other members of the community that would volunteer.

Lynne Benton
Citizen, 621 10th Street, Key Colony Beach, FL

From: City Of Marathon <pio-ci.marathon.fl.us@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 10:01 AM
To: lynne@conklinglaw.com
Subject: CITY OF MARATHON NEWSLETTER



It is my pleasure to reintroduce the **City of Marathon Newsletter**.

The City of Marathon is dedicated to openness and providing our community with information on news and events, sharing timely updates, highlighting city projects, and guiding you to assets available throughout the city.

Governance is a shared responsibility, and I encourage everyone in the community to attend and participate in our meetings, which are held in Council Chambers at Marathon City Hall.

Meetings are live-streamed at **Marathon TV** for those who cannot attend, and recordings are typically available within one to two days. Marathon TV apps are available for Apple and Android devices.

Daily news releases can be found on the city's website at **https://www.ci.marathon.fl.us**.

The city is very active on social media with multiple postings daily on Facebook at **City of Marathon, Florida**. Future social media channels are in development on Instagram, Threads, and X (formerly Twitter).

It's our hope that you, members of our community, through our outreach efforts will have all the information you need to make informed, intelligent decisions regarding the future of our city,

I want to thank you for your continued support and for being an active part of our city.

Sincerely,

Steve Williams, Interim City Manager

These are some of the topics that will be included in this publication:

- Highlights from previous City Council meetings;
- Links to latest press releases;
- Recent City Council decisions;
- News you can use;
- Upcoming events;
- Photos and videos

LINKS TO RECENT PRESS RELEASES

Press Release (#79-26) -- Council's quest for city manager continues

Press Release (#75-26) -- Marathon community enjoys National Night Out

Press Release (#71-26) -- City to increase wastewater rates on Oct. 1

Press Release (#70-26) -- Commercial slips available at 7-Mile Marina

Press Release (#67-26) -- City names Rogers as Marathon Fire Rescue Chief

RECENT CITY COUNCIL DECISIONS

(From Tuesday, July 14, Marathon City Council meeting)

Resolution 2026-47, Consideration Of A Request By Key Colony Homes, LLC., For A Conditional Use Permit, Pursuant To Chapter 102, Article 13 Of The City Of Marathon Land Development Regulations ("The Code") Entitled "Conditional Use Permits", Authorizing The Construction Of A Boat Ramp At The Property Located At 62 Coco Plum Drive, Which Is Legally Described As BK 3 Lots 3 And 4, Coco Plum Beach, Fat Deer Key PB4-166, Marathon, Monroe County, Florida, Having Real Estate Number 00363290-000000, Nearest Mile Marker 54.

Motion passed on 5-0 vote

Resolution 2026-57, Adopting The City Of Marathon Safe Streets For All Plan; Providing For An Effective Date

Motion was approved

Resolution 2026-64, Authorizing The Purchase Of Real Property From Tyrone Leatherwood And Mileydi Mckenzie (Re No. 00353980-000000); Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract For Sale, Negotiate Terms, And To Consummate The Purchase Through All Closing Documents In An Amount Not To Exceed Four Hundred Thousand Dollars ($400,000); Appropriating Funds And Providing For An Effective Date

Motion was approved

Ordinance 2026-22, Amending The City's Land Development Regulations, Chapter 104, "Specific Use Regulations," Article 1, "General Provisions," Section 104.64, "Waterfront Walkways And Docks"; Providing For Severability; Providing For The Repeal Of Conflicting Provisions; Providing For The Transmittal Of This Ordinance To The State Department Commerce After Final Adoption By The City Council; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Motion passed on 5-0 vote

NEWS YOU CAN USE

GENERAL FUND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City of Marathon held a Special Call meeting on Tuesday, July 21, to determine a proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and set dates for budget public hearings.

Council approved a proposed rate of 2.3231, which is $2.3231 per $1,000.00 of assessed property within the City of Marathon. The proposed rate is a maximum ceiling and can be reduced during upcoming budget hearings.

Two public budget hearings will be held: The first is scheduled Wednesday, Sept. 16; the second on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Both meetings will be at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at Marathon City Hall.

NEW AMENITIES FOR COMMUNITY

It's been a busy summer as the city celebrates the opening -- and reopening -- of various amenities for Marathon residents.

The Marathon Skate Park held a soft opening on June 23, to the delight of many Marathon skateboarders, cyclists, and scooter riders.

Less than a week later, Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo marked the grand opening of the city's four new pickleball courts.

In July, city officials barked over the renovated Dog Park, which was expanded to include a covered tiki and dog-washing station.

And in August, prior to the city's America-Fest celebration at Marathon Community Park, the mayor scored a goal on the park's resodded soccer fields.

NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The city recently hired former newspaper editor Chris Seymour as Public Information Officer to increase communication with residents and visitors to Marathon, with the goal of disseminating information and increasing connection with the community.

To reach the PIO, email pio@ci.marathon.fl.us or call 645-206-4368.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(All meetings are held in Council Chambers, Marathon City Hall)

- **Thursday, Aug. 20 (2 p.m.):** Code Compliance Hearing
- **Monday, Aug. 24 (5:30 p.m.):** Planning Commission Meeting
- **Tuesday, Aug. 25 (5:30 p.m.):** City Council Workshop
- **Tuesday, Sept. 8 (5:30 p.m.):** City Council Meeting

WHEN AVAILABLE, MEETING AGENDAS CAN BE FOUND HERE

- **Friday, Sept. 11:** 9/11 Day of Remembrance, Marathon Fire Rescue Station #14
- **Sunday, Sept. 27:** After the Bell Community Picnic, from 4 to 7 p.m., Oceanfront Park Events Tiki
- **Saturday, Oct. 10:** Float-In Movie Night, starting at 6 p.m., The Lagoon at Grassy Key

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

- MARATHON'S AMERICA-FEST CELEBRATES 250 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Photos

- CITY OPENS RENOVATED OCEANFRONT PARK DOG PARK

Photos

- MAYOR, FIRE INSPECTORS, OTHERS OPEN CITY'S PICKLEBALL COURTS

Photos

- THE WONDER OF NATURE

Facebook Video

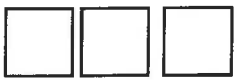
QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

If you have any questions about this newsletter or information contained within, contact:

Chris Seymour, Public Information Officer City of Marathon

Email: pio@ci.marathon.fl.us

Phone 645-205-4368



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