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**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2005-005**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MARATHON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
A "STAGED HURRICANE EVACUATION PROCESS"**

**WHEREAS**, the local governments in the Florida Keys have adopted a hurricane evacuation clearance time of 24 hours; and

**WHEREAS**, the hurricane evacuation clearance time is estimated using the Florida Keys Hurricane Evacuation Clearance Model; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent information indicates that the estimated clearance time is approximately 24 hours; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring the ability to safely evacuate residents and tourists of the Florida Keys is a primary safety concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Keys Hurricane Evacuation Working Group has been meeting for the past five months to address this issue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Working Group has proposed the local governments in the Florida Keys agree to the concept of a "staged evacuation process"; and

**WHEREAS**, a staged evacuation process will allow for a safer evacuation of the Florida Keys by requiring tourist, non-residents, and other categories of evacuees complete their evacuations prior to the inception of the evacuation of residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the staged evacuation process will result in a reduced time period for the evacuation of the residents of the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, this concept is summarized on the attached one page document titled: **Alternative # 3 For Reducing Evacuation Time.**

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

**Section 1.** The City Council agrees with the concept of a "staged evacuation".

**Section 2.** The City Council agrees to adopt this concept into their comprehensive plan.

**Section 3.** The Department of Community Affairs shall assist the City of Marathon in preparing the necessary amendment(s) to it's comprehensive plan.

**Section 4.** Upon adoption into the comprehensive plan, the Department of Community Affairs shall factor this new approach of "staged hurricane evacuation" into the Hurricane Evacuation Clearance Model.

**Section 5.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.


**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the city of Marathon, Florida, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2005.

**THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey M. Pinkus, Mayor


AYES: Bartus, Bull, Mearns, Miller, Pinkus  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy L. Ecklund  
City Clerk

(City Seal)

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**ALTERNATIVE #3  
FOR REDUCING EVACUATION TIME  
STAGED / PHASED EVACUATION**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Staged / Phased Evacuation alternative specifies that for a major hurricane (Category 3-5), a mandatory evacuation of non-residents, visitors, and recreational vehicles (RVs) from the Keys approximately 48-hours in advance of tropical storm force winds would be required. The critical concept is that non-residents would leave the Keys before the evacuation of residents has begun. This alternative also includes the closing of state parks, campgrounds, boat live-aboards, and evacuation of military personnel. Entry into the Florida Keys by non-residential personnel should also be strictly limited.

Additionally, this alternative includes the evacuation of mobile home residents, special needs residents, and hospital and nursing home patients within 36-hours of the onset of tropical storm force winds. A mandatory phased evacuation of permanent residents, by evacuation zone, would also be initiated approximately 30-hours in advance of tropical storm force winds.

Existing evacuation zones are as follows:

- Zone 1 - Key West, Stock Island and Key Haven to Boca Chica Bridge (MM 1-6)
- Zone 2 - Boca Chica Bridge to west end of 7-Mile Bridge (MM 6-40)
- Zone 3 - West end of 7-Mile Bridge to west end of Long Boat Key Bridge (MM 40-63)
- Zone 4 - West end of Long Boat Key Bridge to CR905 and CR905A intersection (MM 63-106.5)
- Zone 5 - CR 905A to, and including Ocean Reef (MM 106.5 -126.5)

**BENEFITS:** The primary benefit associated with this alternative is the reduction of background traffic during a mandatory evacuation of Keys residents. This reduction in traffic would in turn reduce the estimated evacuation clearance times for residents by approximately three and a half hours if an early evacuation of tourists is implemented, and 6-hours for early evacuation of tourists and mobile homes.

The reduction of clearance times for phased evacuation of residents could not be determined due to limited capability in modifying model response curves.

**ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:** The implementation of this alternative requires the cooperation and support of various agencies within the Keys, particularly the Tourist Development Council, business community (rental managers and realtors), and the military. The Board of County Commissioners and jurisdictions must also adopt a policy to fully support and implement the early evacuation of tourists, RVs, and mobile homes. However, a risk is associated with the early evacuation of tourist, in that, if the storm changes direction, forward speed, and intensity or completely misses the Florida Keys, local businesses may suffer business damages needlessly. Additionally, if clearance time is defined as "... beginning when the first evacuating vehicle in Monroe County enters the roadway network and ending when the last evacuating vehicle exits, or passes by the northbound entrance to the Florida's Turnpike on US 1 in Florida City," then advanced clearance times of 48-hours, 36-hours, and 30-hours would require a clarification of clearance time for policy purposes.

**IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME:** This alternative could be implemented before the next hurricane season.