

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2007-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, COMMENDING ALL INVOLVED AND PARTICULARLY THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND THE MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT ROLE AND SUPPORT IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF STORM DAMAGED AND ABANDONED VESSELS AFTER THE 2005 HURRICANE SEASON AND REQUESTING CONTINUED AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DERELICT / ABANDONED VESSELS IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THESE VESSELS AND IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THREATS FROM THESE VESSELS TO LIFE, SAFETY AND PROPERTY IN FUTURE STORM SEASONS

WHEREAS, Monroe County has consistently had one of the highest occurrences of derelict / abandoned vessels in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County removes approximately 100 derelict / abandoned vessels annually from the waters and shorelines of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, this continuous effort minimally tracks the creation of new abandoned / derelict vessels and has been insufficient to eliminate these vessels each year; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 storm season, particularly the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, left over 450 vessels sunken in surrounding waters or dashed on the shores of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, following the 2005 storm season and through a partnership of FEMA, the State of Florida, and Monroe County with its municipalities, storm damaged vessels and other existing derelict / abandoned vessels have virtually been removed from the waters surrounding the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the appearance, beauty, and aesthetic value of the Florida Keys has been enhanced substantially through this effort; and

WHEREAS, boating safety for citizens and visitors to the Florida Keys and protection to shoreline properties has been tremendously increased by this effort; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive, continuous, and day to day effort to identify and remove derelict and abandoned vessels would minimize the creation of new derelict / abandoned vessels and future potential storm impacts; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive derelict / abandoned vessel program would also remove life-safety threats to the human population, improve environmental health, minimize impacts to the environment, and improve the appearance and aesthetic character of the Florida Keys;

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

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City Council hereby expresses its gratitude to all involved with the effort to remove vessels impacted during the 2005 storm season and all other derelict / abandoned vessels removed during the project effort.

Section 3. The City Council wishes to acknowledge particular commendations for the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in their aggressive efforts to identify and complete "due diligence" requirements for all vessels removed.

Section 4. The City Council hereby requests that these agencies continue aggressive actions which would maintain the level of effort required to eliminate derelict / abandoned vessels from the waters of the Florida Keys, including

- a. heightened day to day focus on the derelict / abandoned vessel issue, and
- b. training of all waters officers in the requirements for identifying and authorizing the removal of derelict / abandoned vessel; and
- c. direction to water officers that writing derelict / abandoned vessel reports and citations is an essential part of their duties.


Section 5. This Resolution is provided to all agencies and entities involved in the effort to remove vessels after the 2005 storm season, particularly the FWC and MCSO.

Section 6 The City Council hereby requests continued aggressive efforts to identify derelict / abandoned vessels in day to day operations in order to minimize the existence of these vessels and in order to eliminate threats from these vessels to life safety and property in future storms.

Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida, this 9th day of January, 2007.

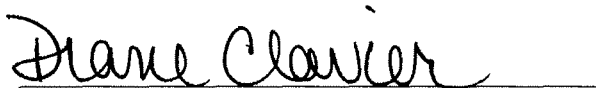
THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Christopher M. Bull, Mayor

AYES: Pinkus, Tempest, Worthington, Mearns, Bull
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

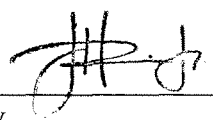
ATTEST:



Diane Clavier
City Clerk

(City Seal)

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



City Attorney