

Sponsored by: Worthington

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2011-97**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING FRIENDS OF OLD SEVEN, INC. AS THE LEAD PARTNER IN A JOINT-VENTURE BETWEEN MONROE COUNTY AND VARIOUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAVING, REHABILITATING AND MAINTAINING THE OLD SEVEN MILE BRIDGE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Old Seven Mile Bridge (the “Bridge”), one of the most significant structures in the 100 year Florida Keys Overseas Railway and Trail, 2.2 miles long, and traversing a section of water between Knights Key and Pigeon Key, is recognized, world-wide, as an extremely valuable and protected components of Florida’s history, with it and Pigeon Key both being in the National Registry of Historical Places and in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Greenways and Trails’ Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail (FKOHT); and

WHEREAS, the Bridge has played a critical role in the economic life of Southeastern Florida and of the Florida Keys in particular, and continues, to this day, being a major magnet with over 100,000 people currently using it annually as a recreational and exercise facility as well as an access point to historical Pigeon Key; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge is in poor repair and needs to be rebuilt or significantly renovated; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Department of Transportation (the “FDOT”) – owner of the bridge – has taken certain steps to limit use of the structure due to disrepair; and it is becoming increasingly obvious that the Bridge might soon be closed by FDOT to all traffic, including pedestrians, because of the said disrepair; and

WHEREAS, such closure will represent a significant reduction to access of Pigeon Key, an island owned by Monroe County, while the only remaining mode of accessing Pigeon Key – a ferry service – is scheduled to lose its funding by FDOT and cease operation in the near future; and

WHEREAS, FDOT has expressed a willingness to restore the Bridge and then hand over to a third party the ownership and maintenance of the restored Bridge; however, FDOT requires proof of community support, participation, commitment and funding for the long term maintenance of the restored Bridge; and

WHEREAS, The restoration and enhancement of the Bridge under fresh, innovative architectural/ engineering design alternatives could provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create

a unique world-class attraction when integrated with the adjoining Pigeon Key, Sunset Park and Knights Key; thus expanding the City's effort to create a family-friendly eco-tourism destination for the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, A number of rail-to-trails, rail-to-parks and road-to-parks (both national and international) have proven highly successful in converting abandoned transportation facilities into highly desirable urban and tourism-enhancing facilities including, among others, the Highline, in lower Manhattan, and the Walkway over the Hudson, in New York State; and

WHEREAS, these projects have succeeded not only in saving valuable historical structures, but in attracting private and public investment to nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, Certain governmental stakeholders – including Monroe County, the City of Marathon, FDOT, Florida Department of Environmental Protection – have an implied interest in working together to save the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, There is no entity or organization recognized by the governmental stakeholders as a viable entity capable of leading a private-public joint-venture that will design and eventually implement alternative strategies leading to saving, restoring, enhancing and maintaining the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, There are significant advantages to be gained by recognizing and including a non-profit organization as an official stakeholder in the joint effort to save the Bridge, including private fundraising, marketing, citizen recruitment, and design competition that will lead to the long term maintenance or replacement of the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of Old Seven has applied for official 501 (c) 3 status with the Internal Revenue Service, and was created to participate in planning and design meetings with other Bridge stakeholders including but not limited to the FDOT, the City of Marathon, Monroe County, various service clubs and other non-profit organizations, and the general public; and to raise funds through various means and to contribute toward the reconstruction and maintenance or replacement of Bridge.

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

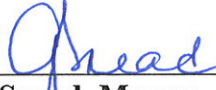
Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Friends of Old Seven, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 corporation, is recognized and hereby designated by the City Council to be the City's lead partner in a joint-venture between Monroe County and various public and private organizations for the purpose of saving, rehabilitating and maintaining the Bridge.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 11th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Ginger Snead, Mayor

AYES: Cinque, Keating, Ramsay, Worthington, Snead
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

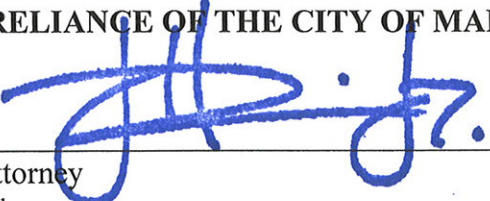
ATTEST:



Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

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



City Attorney
#205661 v1