Islamorada, Village of Islands
VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP

June 11, 2024 - 4:30 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

The Village Council has resumed the in-person regular meeting format. Virtual participation is still available to the public. Please see the last page of the agenda for participation details

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. AGENDA
A. Legislative Agenda Workshop
IV. PUBLIC COMMENT
V. ADJOURNMENT

Options for Viewing the Village Council Meeting:
The public is encouraged to watch the meeting on Monroe County's MCTV Comcast Channel 77. Alternatively, the public may view the meeting streamed live on the Village website from their personal computer, tablet or phone via the following link: https://www.islamorada.fl.us/departments/communications/live_village_broadcast_meeting.php

Option 1: Email your comments.
1. Public comment should be submitted via email to: public.comment@islamorada.fl.us
2. The email should contain "Public Comment" in the subject line.
3. The name and address of the submitter shall be included in the email.
4. Public comment should be submitted by 9 a.m. the day before the meeting. Public comment will be sent to the Village Councilmembers for consideration prior to the meeting. Public comments will not be read during the meeting.

Option 2: Call in During the Meeting.

1. If phoning in, dial 305-224-1968 and enter the webinar **ID: 911 0656 4166** followed by #. When the Mayor opens public comment pertaining to the agenda item you are interested in dial ***9** to be recognized by the Zoom meeting monitor. The Monitor will call you by the last four digits of your phone number. Please be sure to unmute your phone when you are called upon.

2. If watching online via Zoom: Open the Zoom webinar link https://zoom.us/j/91106564166 and follow the prompts to join the webinar. When the Mayor opens public comment use the "raise your hand" feature to be recognized by the meeting monitor. Public comments will be heard in the order in which they are received.

ADA Assistance:

These meetings are open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the ADA Coordinator at (305) 664-6448 or by email at ADA@islamorada.fl.us at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting

Council Communication

To: Mayor and Village Council
From: Robert Cole, Village Manager
Date: June 11, 2024
SUBJECT: **Legislative Agenda Workshop**

Background:
The Legislative Agenda Workshop serves a couple of primary objectives.

First, it is an opportunity to gain Village Council consensus around policy-level ("30,000-foot") guidance for topics of local legislative interest or importance, i.e., what public policy issues are important to Islamorada for the upcoming legislative cycles at the state and federal levels, e.g., affordable housing, healthy marine ecosystems, maintaining certain grant program funding streams, etc., and what types of legislative initiatives should we defend against, e.g., initiatives that undermine Home Rule, create unfunded mandates, etc. As a document, the Legislative Agenda incorporates and briefly discusses broad public policy statements and their relevance to our local environment and needs. Importantly, it forms the basis for decisions made by the legislative team during session, positions that need to be taken on certain legislative initiatives as they move through the legislative sequence in real time. Because of the sometimes chaotic and unpredictable nature of the legislative process, in that legislation can suddenly gain traction and rapidly advance, the legislative team uses the Legislative Agenda to inform timely expression of support or opposition on behalf of our community interests and needs; there may not be enough time to poll others or conduct outreach to ascertain more granular viewpoints or perspectives, and agility is a key element of legislative effectiveness, as is cultivating relationships and having a good legislative process in-place. Thus, the Legislative Agenda both affirms our Village Council's policy-level guidance and serves as a tool to support decision-making during legislative sessions. It also promotes public transparency in that legislative issues that we deem important to the Islamorada community are documented therein, accompanied by policy-level guidance statements.

The second primary Workshop objective is to provide the Village Council and Islamorada community with an overview of our legislative advocacy process. The Legislative Advocacy Process begins with affirmation of our annual Legislative Agenda, which is the main topic of tonight's workshop. The next step involves completion of the Village's annual budget process. While not typically viewed as a key milestone from a legislative perspective, the Village Budget is an important element because it authorizes appropriations for specific expenditures that may be eligible for state or federal financial support. The financial needs captured in the adopted Village Budget are linked to the policy statements incorporated into our Legislative Agenda and then translated into a single-page funding priority summary that is then transmitted to our state and federal elected officials, as well as our lobbyists, in an effort to gain access to grant and other forms of state or federal funding support. As part of the effort to cultivate and maintain legislative relationships, the legislative team maintains contact with our

key legislators throughout the course of the year and legislative delegations visit them and agency heads during session to reinforce our local interests and needs. Of course, grants, member funding initiatives, and other forms of state or federal aid help to minimize the local tax burden and/or help fund important projects that would otherwise not be realistic to achieve without such financial support, so the effort is worthwhile. Of note, the legislative team routinely surveils the legislative process and coordinates action on emerging legislation and funding opportunities, consistent with policy direction provided in the Legislative Agenda. Upon conclusion of the legislative session, our lobbyist team provides a post-session summary, as was presented to the Council earlier this year by Gray-Robinson.

Analysis:
Having a Legislative Agenda and a supporting advocacy process helps to protect and advance local legislative interests while also helping to secure state and federal funding to support critical local programs, services, and infrastructure. Collaborating with our municipal peers and community partners can help to amplify our voice and effort is being made to identify and maximize such opportunities for collective action on areas of mutual legislative interest.

Budget Impact:
Opportunities for state and federal funding are maximized.

Staff Impact:

Recommendation:
Support the Legislative Agenda and associated advocacy process, as outlined.

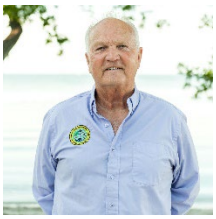
Attachments: 1. 2024 06 11 Legislative Agenda Document.Meeting Draft

WORKING DRAFT:
June 11, 2024

Islamorada, Village of Islands

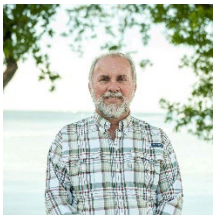
Legislative Agenda

2024-25



Mayor
Buddy Pinder

Vice Mayor
Sharon Mahoney



Councilman
Mark Gregg

Councilwoman
Elizabeth Jolin

Councilman
Henry Rosenthal

86800 Overseas Highway, Third Floor, Islamorada, FL 33036
305-664-6400 · www.islamorada.fl.us

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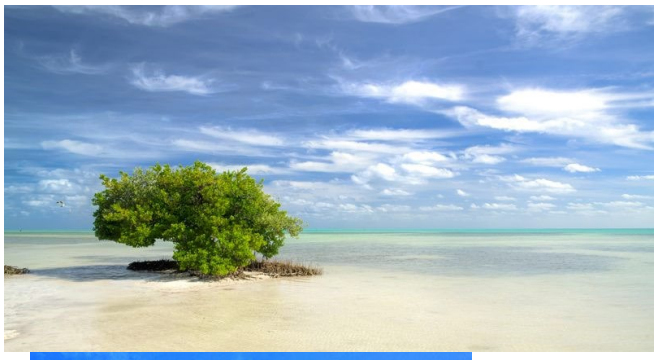
Our Mission

To Protect the Resident's Right to Quiet Enjoyment of Life

To Plan for Enhancing Our Village Character

To Preserve Our Community; Its People, Natural Resources, and Pride

To Provide Basic Services to Support our Quality of Life



Introduction and Overview

Brief Background and Pressing Challenges

Islamorada, Village of Islands, is committed to advancing our community's prosperity and well-being. We are blessed to live, work, and play in one of the world's premier settings – the Florida Keys. Our island paradise has changed substantially from times when our most senior residents used to play catch in the middle of U.S. 1 without a car in sight. Indeed, the entire world has changed a great deal since then.

Importantly, Islamorada is on the front lines of climate change in the state of Florida, with factors such as sea level rise, increasing frequency and intensity of storms, stresses on marine ecosystems, and others demanding local, state, and federal support to advance adaptation and resilience strategies, not to mention disaster preparedness and recovery capabilities. At risk is our infrastructure, our community, and our way of life.

At the same time, our community continues to be highly desirable to new residents, businesses, and visitors; our county population continues to grow at a rapid pace. As the combined costs of housing and transportation have sharply escalated, people of all ages and abilities have found it increasingly difficult to secure affordable housing. Ranging from those attempting to age-in-place to persons seeking local service industry employment, folks are finding it increasingly challenging to make ends meet.

The burden of the combined costs of housing and transportation, typically the two most costly components of a personal or family budget, has become extreme. While helping to support a thriving tourism industry, vacation rentals further exacerbate affordability and contribute to traffic and quality of life impacts, translating into a need to maintain local regulatory authority and oversight of such properties. The absence of county-wide, high-quality transit alternatives compounds the affordability problem, while also contributing to a wide range of negative outcomes, including environmental degradation, increased congestion, and life-threatening transportation safety problems, all of which require coordinated intergovernmental and legislative partnerships focused on advancing effective solutions.

Charting the Course: Intergovernmental and Legislative Advocacy

Central to our intergovernmental and legislative strategy is the cultivation of robust intergovernmental and legislative relationships. By fostering strong collaborations with our state and federal officials, neighboring municipalities and Monroe County, and concerned members of our community, including local businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and others, we endeavor to effectively advocate for our community's

needs, secure vital resources, and support and advance programs, policies, and legislation that protect and advance our local interests.

Together, these partnerships empower us to rise to pressing challenges, seize new opportunities, and ensure a thriving, resilient future for all members of the Islamorada community, as well as those drawn as visitors to our island paradise, the gem of the Florida Keys.

Legislative Agenda: Our Public Policy Roadmap

Our Legislative Agenda helps to ensure that we can proactively and cohesively pursue initiatives that benefit the Islamorada community. Our time invested to create this document yields many benefits, including:

- Clarity and Focus

  The Legislative Agenda supports alignment of our staff, Village Council, and Islamorada community on key issues of legislative importance.

- Strategy

  Together with the adopted budget, the Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, and Legislative Agenda provide the planning, financial resources, and tactical support required to effectively pursue our community and organizational goals. We are amidst an important effort to update our Comprehensive Plan, which will help guide and inform future Strategic Plans and Legislative Agendas. Following completion of our Comp Plan update, we will restart and maintain a cyclical strategic planning process.

  Our legislative program links our local goals and objectives to legislative initiatives and endeavors to influence outcomes in favor of our local interests, including securing financial resources to help support public and not-for-profit projects and programs aligned with our priorities and goals.

- Advocacy and Influence

  A well-defined legislative program, inclusive of on-the-ground support in Tallahassee and Washington D.C., strengthens our ability to actively advocate for our local interests at the state and national levels.

  By aligning our interests with those of our neighbors and community partners, we can establish a united front when lobbying for funding, policy changes, or other forms of support, including opposition to adversarial legislative initiatives.

- Accountability and Transparency

  Setting clear public policy goals allows the Islamorada community to understand our priorities and hold us accountable for delivering results consistent with our organizational mission and community values.

- Intergovernmental Collaboration

  Partnerships arise from knowledge of shared goals and mutual commitment to work toward achieving them. A legislative agenda helps build and maintain productive relationships where needs and interests align, enabling more effective negotiation and cooperation, both locally and legislatively.

- Community Engagement

  This document also serves as a communication tool to educate and engage the Islamorada community on issues of importance, gather their input, and helps promote legislative outcomes best reflect community needs and aspirations.

Effectively navigating the complexity of the legislative process and being agile amidst the unpredictable pace at which legislative initiatives emerge and advance requires that our legislative team be enabled to act on behalf of our Village Council and the Islamorada community in real time. Our Legislative Agenda establishes the policy-level guidance necessary for the team to review and analyze individual legislative initiatives and independently present timely communication to our elected officials, encouraging each to act in support of our local interests and needs.

Our Legislative Agenda

Public Policy Focal Area 1

Policy: Council Position Statement

[Narrative about the issue and why it is important locally]

Public Policy Focal Area 2

Policy: Council Position Statement

[Narrative about the issue and why it is important locally]

Public Policy Focal Area 3

Policy: Council Position Statement

[Narrative about the issue and why it is important locally]

Public Policy Focal Area 4

Policy: Council Position Statement

[Narrative about the issue and why it is important locally]