

# Village of Key Biscayne

*Office of the Village Clerk*  
Annual Report to the Village Council  
January 2005



Conchita H. Alvarez, CMC  
*Village Clerk*

Mayra Gomez  
*Assistant to the Village Clerk*



# VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE

Office of the Village Clerk

*Village Council*

Robert Oldakowski, *Mayor*  
Robert L. Vernon, *Vice Mayor*  
Enrique Garcia  
Steve Liedman  
Jorge E. Mendia  
Thomas Thornton  
Patricia Weinman

*Village Clerk*

Conchita H. Alvarez, *CMC*

January 4, 2005

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the Village Council  
Village of Key Biscayne  
Key Biscayne, Florida

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am pleased to provide you with this annual report highlighting the activities of the Office of the Village Clerk throughout calendar year 2004.

This annual report is intended to acquaint the Council, Village staff and the general public with the day to day operation of the Clerk's Office.

I am looking forward to continued service in 2005 and to the tasks and challenges that lie ahead for the Clerk's Office and our Village government.

Sincerely,

Conchita H. Alvarez, CMC  
Village Clerk

## Introduction

The position of clerk is one of the oldest and most common in local government. The office can be traced back as far as ancient Greece and the title “clerk” developed during the early middle ages when churches regulated many local government matters and only clergymen were educated and could write. The idea of a clerk as a writer, keeper of records and local official evolves from this history.

In America, the early settlers were well aware of the importance of keeping accurate written records of their agreements and actions and so the position of the town clerk was one of the earliest offices established in colonial towns. The office has continued to this day as an essential municipal post and every city, town and village, regardless of size or form of government, has a clerk or equivalent position.

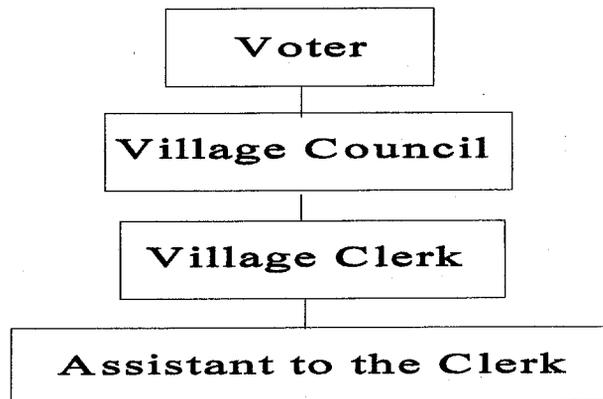
William B. Munro, an eminent political scientist, writing in one of the first textbooks on municipal administration (1934), stated that “no other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager, and all administrative departments without exception. All of them call upon it, almost daily, for some service or information. Its work is not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy, and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administration this office pulls together.”

In Key Biscayne, the Office of the Village Clerk is established by Section 3.04 of the Village Charter. The charter states that “the Village Council shall appoint a Village Clerk. The clerk shall give notice of Village Council meetings to its members and the public, shall keep a journal of its proceedings which shall be a public record and shall perform such other duties as the Village Council may prescribe from time to time. The clerk shall report to the Village Council.”

## *Organizational Chart and Staffing*

The Clerk's Office is staffed by the Village Clerk and an Assistant to the Clerk.

### *Mission Statement*



The Office of the Village Clerk is committed to serving the Village Council and public in a responsive and efficient manner and pledges to be ever mindful of its neutrality and impartiality -- rendering equal service to all. The Clerk's Office shall also uphold the Village's Mission Statement, particularly "provide a...quality community environment...through responsible government."

## Objectives of the Clerk's Office

Pursuant to state law, the Village Charter and local customs, ordinances and rules, the Village Clerk is entrusted with numerous and diverse duties. These duties include the following:

### **S** ecretary to the Council

- Record and maintain accurate minutes of the proceedings of the Village Council.
- Prepare, in cooperation with the Village Manager, and distribute Village Council meeting agendas and packets.
- Process, record and file agreements, contracts, ordinances, proclamations, and resolutions.
- Coordinate publication of public notices as required by law.
- Maintain custody of all official records not specifically handled by other departments.
- Provide information and records research to the Village Council, staff and public.
- Perform liaison work between the public and the Council as may be directed.

### **S** ecretary of the Municipal Corporation

- Maintain custody of the municipal seal.
- Sign official documents.

## **E**lection Official

- Serve as the Supervisor of Elections for Village elections including council and mayoral seats, referenda and charter petitions.
- Qualify all candidates for municipal elections.
- Maintain receipt of any and all petitions.
- Serve as the Canvassing Board for municipal elections.
- Maintain receipt of election results.

## **A**dministrative Official

- Administer the publication of the Village Code, code supplements and the Village Charter.
- Coordinate and administer indexing of Village Council minutes under contract with Municipal Code Corporation.
- Serve as Financial Disclosure Coordinator with the State of Florida Commission on Ethics and serve as the Records Management Liaison with the State of Florida Department of State.
- Initiate and coordinate the scheduling, computer imaging and destruction, if applicable, of Village records.
- Provide notary services and administer oaths of office to Village officials.

## *2004 Accomplishments*

## **C**ertification

The Clerk continued her education program in order to maintain the certification awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerk's and entered the first level of the MMCA Program which establishes the ultimate professional designation for Municipal Clerks know as the Master Municipal Clerk (M.C.). The M.C. designation recognizes individual efforts in continuing professional education and simplifies the professional designation beyond the CMC level.

## **E**lections

With the assistance of the Miami-Dade County Elections Department, the Clerk's office coordinated the activities pertaining to the 2004 municipal election. An election was held on November 2, 2004. Two candidates vied for the office of Mayor and ten candidates vied for the office of Councilmember. Of the 5,526 registered voters in the Village, 4,451 cast ballots in the election. Mayor Robert Oldakowski was re-elected as Key Biscayne's mayor with 2,894 votes. Councilmembers Jorge E. Mendia (2,794 votes) and Robert L. Vernon (3,170) were re-elected to the Council. Patricia Weinman (2,377) was also elected to Council.

On November 16, 2004 a run-off election was held in the Village. A total of 1,675 electors cast ballots in the election. Enrique Garcia (1,018), Steve Liedman (992) and Thomas Thornton (984) were elected as Councilmembers.

The Clerk organized the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers on November 18, 2004.

## **H**urricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne

In response to the threat of Hurricane Charley on August 11, 2004, Hurricane Frances on September 1, 2004 and Hurricane Jeanne on September 26, 2004, and pursuant to the Office of the Village Clerk Hurricane Operations Plan, the Clerk implemented the following provisions of the plan: safeguarded all vital and permanent records of the Village; stored scanned records at an alternate location; performed a back-up of all computer files in the Office of the Clerk; attended Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C.) meetings and completed tasks as assigned by the E.O.C. director and complied with all applicable provisions of the Village's Hurricane Plan.

## **I** nternet

The Village Clerk continues to provide important Village Council related information via the Internet to residents and interested parties. The Village's Internet address is <http://www.keybiscayne.fl.gov>.

## **L** ien Letters

The Clerk's Office received 765 requests for municipal lien and special assessment verification. Each request was researched and a letter prepared.

## **R** ecords Retention

All agenda materials for 2004 were scanned as part of the Village's records retention program.

## **T** elephone Directory

The Clerk's Office continues to publish a telephone directory of Village personnel for use by staff and the public. Two directories were published in 2004.

## **V** illage Code

The Clerk's Office coordinated the publication and distribution of Supplements Eighteen and Nineteen to the Village Code. The Clerk also coordinated the bounding, in book form, of the 2004 Village Council Minutes.

**V**illage Council

The Clerk's Office prepared and distributed agendas and packets for the 26 meetings held in 2004.

<u>Regular Meetings</u>	<u>Special Meetings</u>	<u>Workshops</u>	<u>Continuation Meetings</u>	<u>LPA</u>
12	10	3	0	1

The Village Clerk served as the recording secretary at all meetings of the Village Council and prepared official minutes of the proceedings.

The Village Clerk executed and recorded the 11 ordinances adopted by the Village Council.

The Clerk's Office prepared 55 resolutions adopted by the Village Council. All adopted resolutions were executed, recorded and indexed.

The Clerk's Office prepared 18 proclamations issued by the Office of the Mayor.

The Village Clerk provided secretarial, clerical and research assistance to Councilmembers at their direction.

# Village of Key Biscayne

*Village Council*  
Robert Oldakowski, *Mayor*  
Robert L. Vernon, *Vice Mayor*  
Enrique Garcia  
Steve Liedman  
Jorge E. Mendia  
Thomas Thornton



## Office of the Village Clerk

Conchita H. Alvarez, CMC  
*Village Clerk*

Mayra Gomez  
*Assistant to the Village Clerk*