

# Village of Key Biscayne

*Office of the Village Clerk*  
Annual Report to the Village Council  
January 2016



Conchita H. Alvarez, MMC  
*Village Clerk*

Myriam Restrepo  
*Clerk Typist-Imaging Technician*



# V I L L A G E   O F   K E Y   B I S C A Y N E

Office of the Village Clerk

*Village Council*

Mayra P. Lindsay, *Mayor*  
James S. Taintor, *Vice Mayor*  
Franklin H. Caplan  
Luis F. de la Cruz  
Theodore Holloway  
Michael E. Kelly  
Edward London

*Village Clerk*

Conchita H. Alvarez, *MMC*

January 19, 2016

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 2015.

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 2016 and to the tasks and challenges that lie ahead for the Clerk's Office and our Village government.

Sincerely,

Conchita H. Alvarez, MMC  
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.

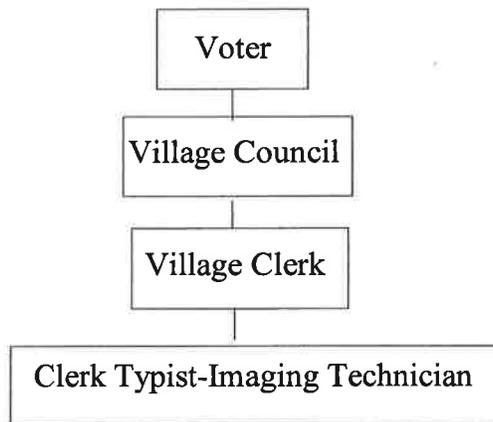
William B. Munro, an eminent political scientist, writing in one of the first textbooks on municipal administration (1934), stated that “no other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager, and all administrative departments without exception. 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 a Clerk Typist-Imaging Technician.

### 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.
- 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.

## *2015 Accomplishments*

## **E**ducation

The Clerk continued her education program in order to maintain the designation of Master Municipal Clerk (MMC). The MMC is the highest level of educational and professional dedication offered by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Florida Association of City Clerks.

## **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 492 requests for municipal lien and special assessment verification. Each request was researched and a letter prepared.

As of December 1, 2015, the Lien Search Program was transferred to the Building, Zoning and Planning Department.

## **R** ecords Retention

All agenda materials for 2015 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 2015.

## **V** illage Code

The Clerk's Office coordinated the publication and distribution of Supplement Thirty-seven, Thirty-eight and Thirty-nine to the Village Code. The Clerk made arrangements with Municipal

Code, at no extra cost to the Village, to update the Code on the Internet as soon as an ordinance is adopted by Council on second reading. The Clerk also coordinated the bounding, in book form, of the 2015 Village Council Minutes. The Charter and the Code are also available on the internet at [www.keybiscayne.fl.gov](http://www.keybiscayne.fl.gov).

## **V**illage Council

The Clerk's Office prepared and distributed agendas and packets for the 35 meetings held in 2015.

<u>Regular Mtgs.</u>	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Workshops</u>	<u>Special Meetings</u>	<u>LPA</u>	<u>Continuation</u>
12	7	2	10	3	1

The Village Clerk and/or the Deputy 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 6 ordinances adopted by the Village Council.

The Clerk's Office prepared 53 resolutions adopted by the Village Council. All adopted resolutions were executed, recorded and indexed.

The Clerk's Office prepared 3 proclamations issued by the Office of the Mayor.

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



VILLAGE SEAL DESCRIPTION ADOPTED BY  
THE VILLAGE COUNCIL  
ON AUGUST 10, 1993

One of the oldest and most recognizable landmarks in South Florida, the Cape Florida Lighthouse was first constructed in 1825. It has a colorful, well-documented history. It stands in the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area. Like all lighthouses, it is a symbol of familiar homecoming to sailors, fishermen and landlubbers alike. It also represents man-made structures of lasting quality, strength and safety in an uncertain world.

The coconut palm, threatened by disease in Florida in recent years, has been a popular symbol of peaceful nature for many tropical areas around the world. Key Biscayne was once a plantation of this versatile tree.

The two sea birds, against the backdrop of the moon, stand for the animals with whom we share our environment.

The sun, sustainer of life, is depicted as just having set. The image evokes a universal human reaction -- a powerful, visual reminder of the potential beauty and transitory nature of all things.

The moon is shown on the seal -- not only for its magical qualities -- but also because it is understood that one of the earliest local Indian dialects contained a word-picture-phrase, "Bischiyano," meaning "Favorite Path of the Rising Moon".

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