



September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Via Hand Delivery and U.S. Regular Mail*

Laurie S. Swanson, *Petitioner*

PO Box 510205

Key Colony Beach, Florida 33051

*RE: Verified Referendum Petition and  
Swanson v. City of Key Colony Beach, Florida; Case No. 2023-CA-000205-M*

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Dear Ms. Swanson:

In accordance with Section 2-16 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Key Colony Beach, Florida, the City of Key Colony Beach, Florida (hereinafter the "City"), acknowledges receipt of your (Verified Petition <sup>263 Pages</sup>) seeking to invoke the **Right of Referendum** to challenge the City's July 20, 2023 contract award to Hands on Builders, LLC ("HOB") and all present efforts undertaken by it to demolish and to further rebuild the City Hall Complex damaged as a result of Hurricane Irma making landfall over the Florida Keys in September 2017. As required by Section 2-16(d), and with the assistance of Joyce Griffin, the acting Supervisor of Elections for Monroe County, Florida, the City Clerk shall be responsible for validating the authenticity of the signatures provided for in this Verified Petition within five (5) working days of the City's acknowledgment of receipt.

Notwithstanding the information set forth immediately above, please be advised that regardless of the number of verified petition cards or blanks returned, and the fact that the City will work with Ms. Griffin to verify and to further validate the authenticity of signatures as required by Section 2-16, the City **will not** be further processing your Referendum Petition. In accordance with longstanding Florida municipal election law, the City's pending Amended Motion to Dismiss filed as a matter of record on August 17, 2023, with the Circuit Court of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Monroe County, Florida, at Case Number 2023-CA-000205-M, the City's Code of Ordinances, and the advice of counsel, the instant Referendum Petition is not the appropriate legal mechanism and remedy to challenge the City's discretionary-level planning decision(s) with regard to such matters, including but not limited to, the City Commission's fiscal, budgetary, and contractual procurement of services from vendors, such as HOB in the instant matter. As such, the submitted petition will not be placed on a future agenda, the City will not be holding a referendum vote of the electors, and it shall not suspend any action on the matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please direct all future inquiries and correspondence to the City Clerk at: [cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net](mailto:cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net) or (305) 289-1212 ext. 2.

Sincerely,



DAVE TURNER, City Administrator

cc: City Commission  
Legal



I, Laurie Swanson, certify, that I have delivered \_\_\_\_\_ (Number of Petitions) signed petitions in a SEALED CONTAINER to the temporary offices of the City of Key Colony Beach at 600 W. Ocean Drive on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date), at \_\_\_\_\_ (Time), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Name).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**September 19, 2023**

*Via U.S. First-Class Mail and Electronic Mail*

Laurie S. Swanson, *Petitioner*

PO Box 510205

Key Colony Beach, Florida 33051

[swansonfj@yahoo.com](mailto:swansonfj@yahoo.com)

*RE: Verified Referendum Petition and  
Swanson v. City of Key Colony Beach, Florida; Case No. 2023-CA-000205-M*

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Dear Ms. Swanson:

On Wednesday, September 13, 2023, you filed a sealed Verified Petition seeking to invoke the ***Right of Referendum*** set forth in Section 2-16 *et seq.* of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Key Colony Beach, Florida, seeking to challenge the July 20, 2023 bid award contract to Hands on Builders, LLC (“HOB”) and all present efforts undertaken to demolish and to further rebuild the City Hall Complex damaged as a result of Hurricane Irma making landfall over the Florida Keys in September 2017. In timely compliance with the mandatory directives set forth in Section 2-16(d)(2), the City of Key Colony Beach, Florida (“hereinafter the “City”) now writes to advise you that with the assistance of R. Joyce Griffin, the Supervisor of Elections for Monroe County, Florida, your Verified Petition has been validated for authenticity of signatures. Accordingly, 264 petitions were submitted and 244 petitions were validated as shown in Exhibit A, attached hereto.



The above said, the City again further advises in concert with its prior correspondence dated September 13, 2023, a courtesy copy of which is enclosed hereto as Exhibit B, that regardless of the number of verified petition cards or blanks returned, and the fact that the City has worked with Ms. Griffin to verify and to further validate the authenticity of signatures required by Section 2-16, it **will not** be further processing your Referendum Petition. In accordance with longstanding Florida municipal election law, the City's pending Amended Motion to Dismiss filed as a matter of record on August 17, 2023, with the Circuit Court of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Monroe County, Florida, at Case Number 2023-CA-000205-M, the City's Code of Ordinances, and the advice of counsel, the instant Referendum Petition is not the appropriate legal mechanism and remedy to challenge the City's discretionary-level planning decision(s) with regard to such matters, including but not limited to, the City Commission's fiscal, budgetary, and contractual procurement of services from vendors, such as HOB in the instant matter. As such, the submitted Referendum Petition will not be placed on a future agenda, the City will not be holding a referendum vote of the electors, and it shall not suspend any action on the matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please direct all future inquires and correspondence to the City Clerk at: [cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net](mailto:cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net) or (305) 289-1212 ext. 2.

Sincerely,

  
SILVIA GRANSEE, City Clerk

cc: City Commission  
Legal

Date 9/13/2023  
Time 02:53 PM

**R. Joyce Griffin**  
Supervisor of Elections  
Petition Signature Audit

Monroe County

<u>Operator</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Voter ID</u>	<u>Recv'd Date</u>	<u>Reject</u> <u>Reason</u>	<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Petition Address</u>	<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Petition</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Cong</u> <u>Dist</u>
	<u>Sign'd Date</u>	<u>Accp'd Date</u>			<u>Current Mailing Address of Voter</u>			

Petition	836	Batch	1	2024	2024-KCB REF. CITY HALL			
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Reason Code

A	ACCEPTED	244
B	No Bdate	1
I	Wr Dist.	2
S	Bad Signature	13
V	Bad sig Date	4
<u>Grand Total:</u>		<u>264</u>

Exhibit A



A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to R. Joyce Griffin, the Supervisor of Elections.