

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 02/20/2008

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes X No

Department: Dist.3

Staff Contact /Phone #: Tammy Sweeting

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Proclamation Proclaiming 2008 as the year of the Key Largo Woodrat

ITEM BACKGROUND:

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST: _____

BUDGETED: Yes ___ No ___

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes ___ No ___ **AMOUNT PER MONTH** ___ **Year** ___

APPROVED BY: County Atty ___ OMB/Purchasing ___ Risk Management ___

DOCUMENTATION: Included ___ Not Required ___

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____



Mayor's Proclamation

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Whereas, the area known as North Key Largo contains the only acreage of tropical hardwood hammock, in the continental United States, sustaining the federally endangered Key Largo Woodrat (*Neotoma floridana smalli*).

Whereas, the mission of Friends And Volunteers Of Refuges (FAVOR) is to support the National Wildlife Refuges of the Florida Keys through education, volunteerism, non- adversarial advocacy and fundraising.

Whereas, FAVOR celebrates extensive combined efforts over recent years between Volunteers, Private Corporations and Local, State and Federal Governments. These efforts have resulted in a successful captive breeding program and habitat restoration of, and for, the endangered Key Largo Woodrat.

Whereas, FAVOR continues to celebrate the efforts of volunteers who made North Key Largo a reality. We remember visionary volunteers such as Dagny Johnson and supporters of early habitat purchase and protection.

Whereas, inspired by the plight of the endangered Key Largo Woodrat, with its humongous ears, gentle nature and good parenting skills, brothers Ralph and Clay DeGayner collaborated to write an educational book, "Key Largo's Koala"; a product of their many hours of hands-on volunteer work on North Key Largo.

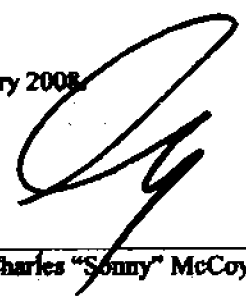
Whereas, in an effort to bring awareness through storytelling, local resident, mother, 2006 Environmental Teacher of the Year and Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge volunteer representative, Nicky Laak, has written a children's novel, "Woodrat Jill".

Whereas, according to the Chinese lunar calendar, 2008 is the Year of the Rat; an event celebrated around the world. In Chinese culture the rat is respected for his courage, responsibility, survival abilities, ability to find solutions, and great leadership qualities. The Chinese New Year started on February 7th The Rat sign is first in a twelve year cycle; a time for new beginnings.

Now therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of Monroe County, Florida, I, Charles "Sonny" McCoy, do hereby proclaim the year of 2008 as

Year of the Key Largo Woodrat

Witness my hand and seal of the County of Monroe, Florida this 20th day of February 2008.



Mayor Charles "Sonny" McCoy

