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Mayor Teri Johnston Announces She Will Not Seek Re-Election

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After a period of reflection, Mayor Teri Johnston has decided to not seek re-election to the Mayor's office. "For fourteen years as City Commissioner and as Mayor, it has been an honor of a lifetime to have served the residents of Key West," said Mayor Johnston. "Throughout my tenure, we have worked tirelessly to make our city vibrant, sustainable, and and welcoming—one where progress moves forward, not back. However, like all leaders realize, there comes a time to allow new leadership to take the helm. This is my time."

Mayor Johnston, having been recognized as the first openly gay woman to be elected as a City Mayor in Florida, hopes that her tenure sparks new generations, from all backgrounds, to seek higher office. Her tenure has been marked by incredible progress in areas of community engagement, sustainable infrastructure development, and transparent, equitable government.

Mayor Johnston's leadership has provided Key West significant milestones in its continued development. She navigated the COVID19 pandemic with a careful eye to public and economic health. She oversaw Key West's first successful strategic plan—a plan that included significant compensation increases to City employees to ensure a better life for them and their families. Johnston's campaign promises for more affordable housing have made significant progress, and she's worked to increase workforce housing levels through existing projects and new ones, such as the Lofts at Bahama Village.

As an environmental steward, Mayor Johnston set a new bar for compromise with cruise ship stakeholders, Mallory pier sustainability, and water quality initiatives. Additionally, the Mayor ushered in beautification efforts on a scale that the City of Key West has not seen before. Her work is seen at Mallory Square, Clinton Square, the Triangle, and Duval Street. So that residents can enjoy these efforts, she sponsored the successful City outdoor dining plan and championed new bicycle and pedestrian traffic policies.

"While I may be moving onto the next chapter, my commitment to our City, our people, and our new City Manager remains steadfast," Mayor Johnston said. "I look forward to supporting our next generation of leaders who will continue making Key West one of the best places to live, grow, and visit."