

RESOLUTION NO. 23-047

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA,
AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO APPLY TO
ESTABLISH BOQUERON, PUERTO RICO AS A
SISTER CITY TO THE CITY OF KEY WEST;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Boqueron is a barrio and fishing village in the municipality of Cabo Rojo, in the U.S. commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Boqueron shares historical and cultural traits including an abundance of tropical fruits, constant sharing of food and fishing bounties, generational family neighborhoods, and a certain reliance on support between its residents, making it a true "Sister" to Key West; and

WHEREAS, Boqueron, like Key West, is beautiful, has eclectic charm, and is LBGTQ friendly. Boqueron is known for its gastronomy, nightlife, beauty, and tranquil relaxation. It is a boater's paradise; and

WHEREAS, Boqueron is historically known for fisheries, salt production, pirates, native Indians, lost treasures, hurricanes, seafood, tourism; and

WHEREAS, Boqueron is called by many Puerto Ricans and visitors "the Key West of Puerto Rico"; and

WHEREAS, Section 288.816, Florida Statutes, vests in the Secretary of State the responsibility to establish a sister cities program for Municipalities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That City staff is hereby authorized to apply to the Florida Secretary of State to establish Boqueron, Puerto Rico as an official "Sister City" to the City of Key West.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Florida Secretary of State Cord Byrd, and the government offices of Boqueron, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

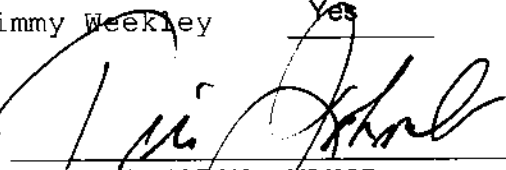
Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this 7th day of March, 2023.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on 13th day of March, 2023.

Filed with the Clerk on March 13, 2023.

Mayor Teri Johnston	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Lissette Carey	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	<u>Yes</u>



TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO
Municipio Autónomo de Cabo Rojo
Oficina del Alcalde
Hon. Jorge A. Morales Wiscovitch
Alcalde

February 22, 2023

Hon. Teri Johnston
Mayor
Key West City
1300 White St.
Key West, Fl. 33040

Dear Mayor:

Hope that when you receive this letter you and all of your staff are enjoying the best of health.

We request that Boquerón, Cabo Rojo be a part of the Sister City Program of Key West, Florida.

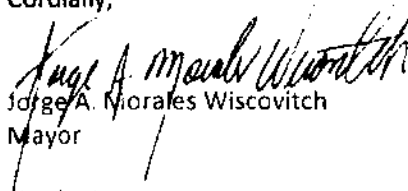
Key West and Boquerón, Cabo Rojo, share historical, cultural, gastronomical, nightlife and natural beauty characteristics that make them both a paradise for residents and visitors.

Our Municipal Administration, culturally similar to Key West, is eager to strengthen ties and we are committed to the brotherhood between both cities and would gladly accept being part of the Sister City Program.

Members and business owners of the community have been consulted and they agree with our administration that the bond between both cities will be very beneficial and will result of mutual gain for both cities. We include copies of letters from those sectors.

We are at your disposal for whatever you may need.

Cordially,


Jorge A. Morales Wiscovitch
Mayor

AMW/vmd

C: City Manager Patti McLaughlin
Mayor Teri Johnston
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman
Commissioner Clayton López-District VI
Commissioner Billy Wardlow District III
Commissioner Marylou Hoover District V
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley-District I
Commissioner Lissette Carey-District IV



MUNICIPIO AUTÓNOMO DE CABO ROJO
OFICINA DEL ALCALDE
APARTADO 1308
CABO ROJO, PUERTO RICO 00623
mcr.mtasaborioar.net

Mr. Clayton Lopez, Commissioner
City of Key West, Florida District VI
c/o City Hall
1300 White Street
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Commissioner Lopez -

We are residents of Boquerón (in the Municipio of Cabo Rojo) as well as owners of Galloway's Landing Bar & Restaurant which is located on the main street (Avenida Jose de Diego) in downtown Boquerón, directly on the waterfront. As such, we are very much in favor of Boquerón and Key West becoming "Sister Cities." We have visited Key West through the years and so appreciate the historical, cultural, touristic, and lifestyle attributes and similarities between the two cities. Actually, it has been our experience that both Puerto Ricans and expats living in Puerto Rico as well as visiting tourists and travel writers often describe casual, colorful, and tolerant "Boquerón" as the "Key West of Puerto Rico." Therefore, this pending formal designation is long overdue and thanks to the initiative, efforts and support of you and your Key West colleagues including Mayor Teri Johnston, and of course Manuel Lopez. It seems such an obvious fit and alliance, and should result in a strategic win-win over time.

Today Boquerón hosts activities and events that are in keeping with those held in Key West – from its annual LGBTQ "Parada de Orgullo Boquerón" held every June, the largest in the Caribbean [see www.facebook.com/boqueronorgullo/], to its annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Parade, started and hosted by our restaurant since 1986 [see video link of our 29th Parade in 2019 at www.facebook.com/100000556303349/videos/2489700454391807/], to our Holiday Season parade of lighted boats organized by our Club Nautico of Boquerón – in 2021, over 75 boats participated and the parade lasted for 3 hours.

And as Boquerón becomes increasingly discovered, more activities and events are being held here, including sports events on our mile-long beach and the filming of live music videos. For instance in October 2021, Puerto Rican singer Olga Tañón recorded her interpretation of classic songs by El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, as part of her tribute to the band [see video link at <https://fb.watch/dvQILU6GDy/>]. And in January 2022, world famous Puerto Rican reggaeton artist Daddy Yankee filmed his latest music video in Boquerón. Among other Cabo Rojo and Boqueron locations, the film crew staged and filmed a mock wedding at our restaurant, out on our deck over the water. [See Daddy Yankee's official "Rumbatón" video at: <https://youtu.be/t7qsVuW8AtY>] And the town with its magnificent natural Bay and nearby

tourism destinations is now being considered by the small, luxury cruise line -- The SeaDream Yacht Club -- as a possible stop among this coming Winter's Caribbean itineraries.

Finally, just a little about our Galloway's Landing Bar & Restaurant . . . we are the oldest and largest restaurant in town, in the same family (Wanda's) for some 70 years. Our location and our original wood structures date from the 1930s when they were the location of Boquerón's fish market, before becoming a Criollo seafood restaurant in the 1950s. We are temporarily closed as we undergo exterior renovations prompted by a grant -- "Backing Historic Small Restaurants " -- we got from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington DC together with American Express. Out of more than 7,000 restaurants that applied, we were among only 25 selected -- and the only one in Puerto Rico! To read more about the historic grant program see: <https://blog.resy.com/2021/05/backing-historic-small-restaurants/>.

We look forward to welcoming you and your Key West VIPs to our charming beachtown as well as our restaurant. And should you have any further questions or need any assistance with anything, please do not hesitate to call on us as well. In the meantime, thank you for your efforts and enthusiasm on our behalf.

With kindest regards, Wanda and Natalie.

Wanda Carlo - m: 787-405-8110

Natalie Ambrose - m: 202-468-0412

Galloway's Landing Bar & Restaurant Inc.

Street Address: #2 Calle Jose de Diego, Boquerón, PR 00622

Mailing Address: c/o Wanda Carlo, 300 Carr. PR-101, #954, Boquerón, PR 00622

Email: gallowayslanding@gmail.com

Website: www.gallowayslanding.com (being updated)

**Clayton Lopez, Commissioner
City of Key West, Florida District VI**

Commissioner Lopez,

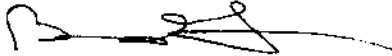
We are residents and business owners in Cabo Rojo and we support Boquerón and Key West becoming Sister Cities.

Boquerón and Key West have many cultural and historical similarities both past and present. This is a great opportunity for both cities to develop a partnership to strengthen and impact our communities, especially in the economic development of the area.

We believe that this initiative will help improve the quality of life of all the residents in Boquerón and will create amazing memories for all Key West visitors.

Respectfully yours,

Brenda Syevens-Vázquez



Jennifer M Huffar-Syevens

