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The State of the City



President Mike Morawski welcomes Mayor Teri Johnston who gave the "State of the City" address at the chamber luncheon.

Mayor Teri Johnston delivered a "State of the City" address on Wednesday, January 23rd, before the chamber at the Doubletree Resort. Armed with facts and figures, Mayor Johnston presented areas of improvements and growth across the city covering many topics relevant to the business community.

"It has been encouraging to see the willingness in city hall to grow, improve, and every day strive to be the most responsive government that we can," said the Mayor. She noted that along with being the first new mayor in ten years, that also Key West has welcomed new Police Chief Brandenburg.

Johnston broke down the financial impact of Irma and costs were estimated at \$12.5M with \$9.4M of expenses directly incurred by city. As of now, \$3.5M has been received of the obligated \$5.4 and the city is waiting on Tallahassee for the rest. Looking ahead the city's total 2018-19 budget will be \$185M with areas of savings like \$8M in grant reimbursements and spending \$5M to purchase the old Citizen building saving taxpayers an

estimated \$23M from the previously budgeted \$29.2 expenditure for a new community services facility.

Mayor Johnston is equally positive about moving forward with the quality of life issues. The Truman Waterfront and Amphitheatre are thriving and soon will move into the next phase that will include a long-awaited multi-use sports field and renovation/addition of building 1287.

The city received in December the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and "this year will bring focus and commitment to alleviating our transportation and subsequent congestion issues."

The 2018-19 budget increased the city's repaving budget by 25% to \$2M, and in 2019, the city will repave Simonton Street and pour new sidewalks, also for Whitehead from South Street to Truman as well redesign Angela from the Truman Waterfront Park to Thomas Street.

Capital projects like the \$7M renovation will begin at Fire Station #3, 1525 Kennedy, due to be completed in late 2021. Moreover, there has been

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Message from President Michael Morawski

On Saturday evening January 19th, I was installed as this year's president at the Key West Chamber's Annual Installation and Awards banquet at the Marriott

Beachside Hotel. I thank Dave Talspaz, Director of Food and Beverage Operations of this facility and his staff for their outstanding service and fantastic dinner. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Appelrouth Farah & Co., PA.. and the Appelrouth & Farr Family for their generous sponsorship of our cocktail hour.

In addition to the Appelrouth families' sponsorship of our cocktail hour the William "Billy" Appelrouth Award is named after Rachel's husband, and Stewart and Eileen's father. Billy and Rachel owned a retail store off one of Duval's side streets now named Appelrouth Lane. Billy was known for his selflessness to his community, its business owners, and the Key West Chamber of Commerce and still continues to inspire others. His name sake award is presented to a chamber member in recognition of their outstanding service and dedication to the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce. This year's recipient was yours truly, Michael Morawski. To say I was surprised, when my two great friends announced me, is an understatement. As the nephew of a Duval Street jeweler 1940s through 1974, who may have been located next to, as well as a benefactor of Billy Appelrouth's generosity; it is incredibly special.

Brenda Donnelly of Berkshire Hathaway Realtors was presented with the 2018 Athena Award. This prestigious award is given to an outstanding professional

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