

ORDINANCE NO. 25-21

AN ORDINANCE OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AMENDING VILLAGE CODE SECTIONS 30-476, BUILDING PERMIT ALLOCATION EVALUATION CRITERIA AND AWARD; PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSMITTAL OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON APPROVAL OF THIS ORDINANCE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village") has established Land Development Regulations ("LDRs") to properly guide development and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, Section 163.3202, Florida Statutes, directs local governments to update land development regulations to be consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, Section 163.3202, Florida Statutes, encourages the use of innovative land development regulations which include provisions such as transfer of development rights, incentives, and inclusionary zoning, planned-unit development, impact fees, and performance zoning; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to facilitate the construction of Workforce-Affordable Housing; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council desires to amend the Village's Land Development Regulations in order to amend the Building permit Allocation Evaluation Criteria and

Award; and

WHEREAS, the Village has conducted duly noticed public hearings for the Land Development Regulation Amendment pursuant to Section 163.3184(11), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 163.3171, Florida Statutes and Sections 30-101 of the Village Code, the Local Planning Agency publicly considered this Ordinance during a duly noticed public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of this Ordinance are consistent with the Village Comprehensive Plan and the Principles for Guiding Development in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is enacted to carry out the purpose and intent of, and exercise the authority set out in, the Community Planning Act; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that the adoption of this Ordinance is in the best interest of the Village and does comply with all applicable laws, as well as promotes the general health, safety, and welfare of the Village residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true, correct, and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Amendment to the Code. That Division 11, "Building Permit Allocation System," of Article IV, "Administrative Procedures," of Chapter 30, "Land Development Regulations," of the Village Code is hereby amended as follows:¹

CHAPTER 30 – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

* * *

ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

* * *

DIVISION 11 – BUILDING PERMIT ALLOCATION SYSTEM

* * *

Sec 30-476 Building Permit Allocation Evaluation Criteria And Award

(f) Affordable-Early Evacuation Pool.

(1) Early Evacuation residential units built under this program shall:

- a. be multifamily structures;
- b. be rental units;
- c. require, at a minimum, adherence to the latest edition of the Florida Building Code as published by the Florida Building Commission;
- d. ~~not be placed in the V-Zone or within the Coastal Barrier Resource Systems~~; require on-site property management;
- e. **not be within the Coastal Barrier Resource Systems**
- f. comply with applicable habitat and other locational criteria and densities for multifamily affordable housing units;
- g. shall not be placed in any habitat defined as mangroves, saltmarsh & buttonwood, tropical hardwood hammock or fresh water wetlands (except for disturbed categories);
- h. incorporate sustainable and resilient design principles into the overall site design;

¹ Coding: ~~Strikethrough~~ words are deletions to the existing words. Underlined words are additions to the existing words. Changes between first and second reading are indicated with **highlighted** ~~double-strikethrough~~ and double underline.

- i. ensure accessibility to employment centers and amenities;
 - j. require deed-restrictions ensuring that:
 - 1. the property remains workforce-affordable housing in perpetuity;
 - 2. tenants evacuate during the period in which transient units are required to evacuate;
 - 3. rental agreements contain a separate disclosure requiring renters to acknowledge that failure to adhere to the evacuation requirement could result in severe penalties, including eviction, to the resident;
 - 4. onsite property managers are formally trained in evacuation procedures.
- (2) Evacuation exemptions. Persons living in workforce-affordable housing who are exempt from evacuation requirements of Comprehensive Plan Policy 2-1.2.9 includes all first responders, correction officers, health care professionals, or other first-response workers required to remain during an emergency, provided that the person claiming exemption under this policy has faithfully certified their status with property management.

* * *

Section 3. Transmittal. Pursuant to Sections 380.05(6), Florida Statutes, the Village Clerk is authorized to forward a copy of this Ordinance to the State Department of Commerce.

Section 4. Conflicts. All Sections or parts of Sections of the Code of Ordinances, all ordinances or parts of ordinances, and all resolutions or parts of resolutions, in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity

of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance but they shall remain in effect, it being the legislative intent that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 6. Inclusion in the Code. It is the intention of the Village Council and it is hereby ordained the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Village of Islamorada Code, that sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intentions, and that the word "Ordinance" shall be changed to "Section" or other appropriate word.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall not become effective until a final Order has been issued by the State Land Planning Agency finding the Land Development Regulation in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Principles for Guiding Development. If timely challenged, the Land Development Regulation does not become effective until the challenge to the order is resolved pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Vice Mayor Horton, who moved its adoption on first reading. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Richards, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Sharon Mahoney	YES
Vice Mayor Don Horton	YES
Councilwoman Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Steve Friedman	YES
Councilwoman Anna Richards	YES

PASSED on first reading this 12th day of June, 2025.

[Remainder of the page intentionally left blank.]

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Councilwoman Gillis, who moved its adoption on second reading. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Richards, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Don Horton	YES
Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney	YES
Councilwoman Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Steve Friedman	YES
Councilwoman Anna Richards	YES

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the second reading this 8th day of January, 2026.



DON HORTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MARNE MCGRATH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE SOLE USE AND BENEFIT OF
ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS ONLY



JOHN J. QUICK, VILLAGE ATTORNEY

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In re: AMENDMENT TO THE ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE
OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, LAND DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 25-21

**FINAL ORDER APPROVING ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS
ORDINANCE NO. 25-21**

The Department of Commerce (“Department”) hereby issues its Final Order, pursuant to Section 380.05(6), Florida Statutes, approving land development regulations adopted by Islamorada, Village of Islands, Florida (“Village”), by Ordinance No. 25-21 (the “Ordinance”).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Florida Keys Area is designated by Section 380.0552, Florida Statutes, as an area of critical state concern. The Village is a local government within the Florida Keys Area.
2. The Ordinance was adopted by the Village on January 8, 2026, and rendered to the Department on January 9, 2026.
3. The Ordinance amends Section 30-476 of the Village Land Development Code to revise procedures and eligibility criteria for the Affordable-Early Evacuation Pool within the Village’s Building Permit Allocation System. The Ordinance removes a provision that previously prohibited early evacuation residential units from being placed in the V Zone.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

4. The Department is required to approve or reject land development regulations that are adopted by any local government in an area of critical state concern. *See* Section 380.05(6), Florida Statutes.

5. “Land development regulations” include local zoning, subdivision, building, and

other regulations controlling the development of land. Section 380.031(8), Florida Statutes. The regulations adopted by the Ordinance are land development regulations.

6. The Ordinance is consistent with the Village's Comprehensive Plan generally, as required by Section 163.3177(1), Florida Statutes, and specifically consistent with Policy 3-2.1.2.

7. All land development regulations enacted, amended, or rescinded within an area of critical state concern must be consistent with the principles for guiding development for that area. *See* Section 380.05(6), Florida Statutes. The Principles for Guiding Development for the Village are set forth in Section 380.0552(7), Florida Statutes.


8. The Ordinance is consistent with the Principles for Guiding Development in Section 380.0552(7), Florida Statutes, and is specifically consistent with the following Principles:

- (a) Strengthening local government capabilities for managing land use and development so that local government is able to achieve these objectives without continuing the area of critical state concern designation.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Department finds that Ordinance No. 25-21 is consistent with the Village's Comprehensive Plan and the Principles for Guiding Development for the Village and is hereby **APPROVED**.

This Final Order becomes final 21 days after publication in the Florida Administrative Register unless a petition is timely filed as described in the Notice of Administrative Rights below.

DONE AND ORDERED in Tallahassee, Florida.



Justin R. Damer, Deputy Secretary
Division of Community Development
Florida Department of Commerce

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS

ANY PERSON WHOSE SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS ARE AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.569, FLORIDA STATUTES.

FOR THE REQUIRED CONTENTS OF A PETITION CHALLENGING AGENCY ACTION, REFER TO RULES 28-106.104(2), 28-106.201(2), AND 28-106.301, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

DEPENDING ON WHETHER OR NOT MATERIAL FACTS ARE DISPUTED IN THE PETITION, A HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO EITHER SECTIONS 120.569 AND 120.57(1), FLORIDA STATUTES, OR SECTIONS 120.569 AND 120.57(2), FLORIDA STATUTES.

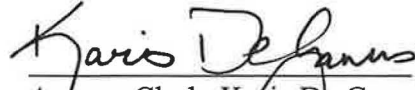
ANY PETITION MUST BE FILED WITH THE AGENCY CLERK OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WITHIN 21 CALENDAR DAYS OF THE FINAL ORDER BEING PUBLISHED IN THE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER. A PETITION IS FILED WHEN IT IS RECEIVED BY:

AGENCY CLERK
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
107 EAST MADISON ST., MSC 110
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-4128
FAX 850-921-3230
AGENCY.CLERK@COMMERCE.FL.GOV

YOU WAIVE THE RIGHT TO ANY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING IF YOU DO NOT FILE A PETITION WITH THE AGENCY CLERK WITHIN 21 CALENDAR DAYS OF THE FINAL ORDER BEING PUBLISHED IN THE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.

CERTIFICATE OF FILING AND SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the original of the foregoing Final Order has been filed with the undersigned designated Agency Clerk, and that true and correct copies have been furnished to the following persons by the methods indicated this 9th day of March, 2026.


Agency Clerk, Karis De Gannes
Florida Department of Commerce
107 East Madison Street, MSC 110
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4128

By U.S. Mail:

Don Horton, Mayor
Islamorada, Village of Islands
86800 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

Marne McGrath, Village Clerk
Islamorada, Village of Islands
86800 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

Jennifer DeBoisbriand, Planning Director
Planning and Development Services
86800 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036