

I relocated to Key West from Corpus Christi, Texas in 1988 and I started working for the City of Key West in 1993 as an administrative assistant to the assistant city manager. In 1996 I was promoted to executive assistant to the city manager. In 1999 my predecessor suddenly passed away. The city manager encouraged me to apply for the city clerk's job. I was shocked when I was chosen by the Key West City Commission and on May 4, 1999, I was sworn in as the city clerk. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be city clerk. But after 20 years of serving in this position, I know I was meant for this job.

I started from ground zero, not really knowing what all of my official duties would be. I would have never made it through the chaos without the FACC. The first thing I did was contact my district director, who at the time was Teresa Soroka, city clerk of Aventura. I attended my first Summer Conference and Academy that June, and Teresa immediately introduced me to the city clerks' in the southeast districts. With the assistance of the FACC and their encouragement for education, I received my CMC in 2002 and my MMC in 2007. I have served on many various committees through the years: membership, goals, bylaws, scholarship, mentoring, etc.

I am single and love to read, ride my bike and spend time with my daughter, Erin, and her husband, Carl. I am very fortunate that they live in Key West. I have a furry daughter Layla, a yorkie, and a furry granddaughter, Katie, a golden retriever.

**Cheri Smith, MMC, CPM**  
City Clerk  
City of Key West