RESOLUTION NO. 09-149

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 301 SIMONTON STREET IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS THE "SIDNEY M. ARONOVITZ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE"; DIRECTING TRANSMISSION OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Sidney M. Aronovitz was born in Key West in 1920; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his undergraduate and law degrees from the great University of Florida, Sidney M. Aronovitz went on to serve as a Captain in the United States Army, a well-respected attorney, a City of Miami Commissioner and Vice Mayor, and ultimately a long tenured Federal Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, the life and accomplishments of Sidney M. Aronovitz stand as a model for any person who aspires to serve the interests of equal justice under law; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen has introduced a bill in the United State House of Representatives naming the Federal Courthouse at 301 Simonton Street after Sidney M. Aronovitz;

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

Section 1: That the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida actively supports the designation of the United States Courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, as the "SIDNEY M. ARONOVITZ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE".

Section 2: That the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen and all other interested parties.

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 July, 2009.

Authenticated by the presiding officer and Clerk of the Commission on July 8, 2009.

Filed with the Clerk July 8, 2009.

MORGAN McPHERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK

ARONOVITZ FAMILY HISTORY IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA
AND LIMITED BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SIDNEY M. ARONOVITZ

In 1880, the patriarch of the Aronovitz family, David Aronovitz arrived in Key West from Europe on the Mallory Steamship Line and became a lifelong Key West resident. Starting as a peddler on Duval Street and then becoming a local merchant with a general store named "D. Aronovitz." located at 612 Duval Street. David Aronovitz and his wife Kate raised six sons.

In the early 1880's, David Aronovitz and his Jewish immigrant friends established B'nai Zion Congregation which has become the oldest conservative Judaism synagogue in the State of Florida.

David's son, Charles, and his wife, Ethel, considered themselves Key West pioneers and between the early 1930's and the late 1960's operated a family owned fabric store on Duval Street named "The Pioneer". Their only child, Sidney Aronovitz, was born in Key West in 1920 and excelled as a student at the Convent School and later graduated from Key West High School in 1937, receiving honors and distinctions including President of the Senior Class and Valedictorian of the Class of 1937. The entire Aronovitz family was recognized for their contributions to the City of Key West with the naming of a street in their honor known as Aronovitz Lane.

Sidney Aronovitz attended the University of Florida and received undergraduate and law degrees with high honors; was inducted in Florida Blue Key; Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship Society; and was a member of the Order of the Coif. After graduation, Sidney Aronovitz served a tour of duty in the European Theater as a Captain in the U.S. Army and received distinctions including the Bronze Star and other medals of honor.

Legal Experience

- Practiced law in Miami 1946 – 1976 with firms including Aronovitz, Aronovitz, & Haverfield, and Aronovitz, Silver & Booth.
- U.S. District Court Judge with distinction, Southern District of Florida, 1976 – 1997.
- Periodically sat by designation on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit.
- Appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Renquist to serve as a member of the original U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, 1988 – 1992.

Non-Legal Achievements

- U.S. Army Captain 1943 – 1946, with multiple WWII field decorations including Bronze Star.
- President, Hillel Advisory Council and Miami Hillel Foundation, University of Miami, 1950 – 1954.
- President, Member, Dade County Zoning Board of Adjustments, 1950 – 1956.
- President, Beth David Congregation, 1961 – 1963.
- Founding Chairman of Dade County Little HUD Housing Authority.
- Miami City Commission, 1962 – 1966; Vice-Mayor, 1965.
- Recipient of Gold Medallion Award by National Council of Christians and Jews.
- Greater Miami Urban League Award for distinguished service on behalf of equal opportunity.
- Award for dedication/service to Dade County as Chairman, Member, Little HUD Advisory Board.
- Award winner of Spirit of Excellence Award bestowed by The Miami Herald.

Associations/Organizations/Honors

- First Chairman, Dade County Community Relations Board.
- Founder/Incorporator/original member of Board of Directors of Cedars of Lebanon Hospital – Miami, Florida.
- Founder/Board Member, Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged.
- Judge Sidney M. Aronovitz Memorial Scholarship established in his honor and administered by Dade Community Foundation to award Miami-Dade County minority student scholarships.
- University of Florida Heritage of Leadership Recognition Society Award.
- University of Florida School of Law "Hall of Fame", initial inductee as a distinguished graduate of the University of Florida School of Law.

SIDNEY M. ARONOVITZ
1920 – 1997

Considered a man of great integrity, he served more than 20 years on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida after being appointed in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. Among his decisions: ruling in the early days of legalized abortion that a woman did not need her husband's consent to obtain one; cancellation of $4.6 million in fines against Key West commercial boat owners involved in the Mariel boatlift ruling that President Carter's "open-arms" speech welcoming Cuban refugees translated into government approval; and ruling in favor of Captain Mel Fischer in the sunken vessel Athocha case. He was active throughout his life on behalf of Dade County and the community he served, becoming the incorporator and/or serving as "first" president/chairman of multiple vital religious, educational and health organizations.

Born in Key West in 1920. Married Elinore Richman, and they had three children, Elaine Aronovitz Glasser, Karen Aronovitz Shonson, and Tod Aronovitz. Survived by his wife and three children. Son, Tod served as President of The Florida Bar in 2002 – 2003.

.....

(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To designate the United States courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, as the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To designate the United States courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, as the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse".

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 **SEC. 1. DESIGNATION.**
4 The United States courthouse located at 301
5 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, shall be known and
6 designated as the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States
7 Courthouse".

1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

2 Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document,
3 paper, or other record of the United States to the United
4 States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed
5 to be a reference to the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United
6 States Courthouse".