



**AGENDA REPORT**  
**April 10, 2018**

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Board passage of the attached resolution would deallocate \$500,000 of TDT revenues, thereby allowing these funds to be used for other projects.

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

District 3

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Board approval of the attached resolution

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

On Oct. 10, 2017, the Board approved allocating TDT revenues to five projects, including the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keepers Cottage Museum.

On March 16th, 2018, the Governor signed legislation giving local governments more flexibility in using these funds to clean bodies of water which relate to tourism. As such, it would be prudent for the Board to revisit this decision in light of its broadened authority.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

- VI F 2 Repl Resolution



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April 11, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commissioner John Tobia, District 3

**RE:** Item VI.F.2., Resolution Rescinding Approval of the Use of Tourism Development Tax (TDT) Revenues for Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keepers Cottage Museum

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on April 10, 2018, considered resolution rescinding approval of the use of TDT revenues for Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keepers Cottage Museum, but took no formal action.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

*Tammy Rowe*

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

cc: County Manager

V.I.F. 2  
Replacement

RESOLUTION 18-\_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION RESCINDING APPROVAL OF THE USE OF TDT REVENUES FOR THE  
CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS COTTAGE MUSEUM**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Brevard County have repeatedly made their wish of a clean and safe lagoon clear; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indian River Lagoon is an estuary of critical importance to the local, regional, and national ecology; and

**WHEREAS**, fishkills are frequently occurring within the Indian River Lagoon, including severe fishkills in 2016 and 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, algae blooms, including those which have a direct impact on the health of citizens and visitors of Brevard County, have occurred in 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, and 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, an algae bloom condition currently exists in the Indian River Lagoon, increasing the likelihood of a fishkill; and

**WHEREAS**, pollution of the Indian River Lagoon has been a major contributor to the loss of more than 60% of seagrass beds; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners that revenue from the "Save Our Lagoon" tax, approved by 62% of voters, should not act to reduce other allocations made to protect the Indian River Lagoon; and

**WHEREAS**, events such as algae blooms and fishkills have a deleterious effect on local quality of life and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential restoration of the Indian River Lagoon has been projected to increase the economic impact of tourism by over \$997 million, according to a study conducted by Tetra Tech, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, should the Indian River Lagoon not be restored, it is estimated that the local economy would lose approximately \$3 billion in tourism and recreation revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16th, 2018, Governor Scott signed legislation which included an authorization for local governments to use Tourism Development Tax revenue to clean lagoons and estuaries critical to tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keepers Cottage Museum's primary purpose is not to maximize economic impacts of tourism, but instead is purposed to preserve history; and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion, the lighthouse museum is projected to have only one full-time employee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is owned and operated by the United States Airforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the project plan includes purchasing period furniture, installation of landscaping and gardens, and picnic tables; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners do find that preserving history is a noble goal, the imminent and substantial risks of a tainted lagoon far outweigh the impact of a keeper's cottage museum at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Tax Watch identified State appropriations for this project as a "turkey," because the project "circumvented established competitive review and prioritization processes, and are funded over projects that adhered to those processes;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Lighthouse Foundation has explicitly stated that this project will continue to be viable without receiving tourism tax dollars.