



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Miscellaneous

J.3.

11/12/2019

Subject:

Transmittal of Request to Municipalities to Cease Charging Citizens Within Certain Taxing Districts Fees to Access Facilities

Fiscal Impact:

Dept/Office:

District 3

Requested Action:

Board Ratification and Transmittal of Attached Letter

Summary Explanation and Background:

Years ago, Brevard County Parks ceased charging its citizens for basic access to its facilities. There has been effort at the State level to prevent taxpayers from being forced to pay for access to the facilities which they have built.

However, certain municipalities continue to charge residents, living within taxing districts which fund facilities, for basic access such as parking. The attached letter is a request by the Board to cease this practice.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

1078



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

November 13, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner John Tobia, District 3

RE: Item J.3., Transmittal of Request to Municipalities to Cease Charging Citizens within Certain Taxing Districts Fees to Access Facilities

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on November 12, 2019, approved transmittal of a request to municipalities who have received or are currently receiving County tax dollars, limited to those facilities receiving those funds, to cease charging citizens access fees to those facilities, upon approval of the County Attorney's office; authorized the Chair to sign the Letter; and directed staff to transmit the letter to the Mayors of the Municipalities and to copy the City Council Members.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

cc: Each Commissioner
County Manager



2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 12, 2019

City of Cape Canaveral
Mayor Hoog
100 Polk Ave.
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Town of Melbourne Beach
Mayor Jim Simmons
507 Ocean Ave
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Town of Palm Shores
Mayor Carol McCormack
5030 Paul Hurtt Lane
Palm Shores, FL 32940

City of Cocoa Beach
Mayor Ben Malik
2 S Orlando Avenue
P.O.Box 322430
Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-2430

Town of Melbourne Village
Mayor Heidi A. Salmon
555 Hammock Rd.
Melbourne Village, FL32904

City of Rockledge
Mayor Thomas J. Price
1600 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

Indian Harbour Beach
Mayor David Panicola
2055 South Patrick Drive
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

City of Cocoa
Mayor Jake Williams, Jr.
65 Stone St.
Cocoa, FL 32922

City of Satellite Beach
Mayor Frank Catino
565 Cassia Boulevard
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Town of Grant-Valkaria
Mayor Del Yonts
1449 Valkaria Road
Grant Valkaria, FL 32950

City of Melbourne
Mayor Kathy Meehan
900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901

City of Titusville
Mayor Walt Johnson
P. O. Box 2806
Titusville, FL 32781-2806

Town of Indialantic
Mayor Dave Berkman
216 5th Avenue
Indialantic, FL 32903

City of Palm Bay
Mayor William Capote
120 Malabar Road
Palm Bay, FL 32907

Honorable Mayors,

It has come to the Board's attention that several political subdivisions of the State of Florida within Brevard County engage in the practice of charging their own taxpayers to simply access parks and facilities, such as fees to park their vehicles. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners find this practice to be abhorrent.

Brevard County stopped engaging in this practice years ago, and there has been a movement at the State level to stop this practice as well. House Bill 183, filed by Rep. Randy Fine, for example, would prohibit charging fees to taxpayers within the Sebastian Inlet Tax District for access to Sebastian Inlet.

- Palm Shores Vice-Mayor Frank Falcone, Councilmember Chase Chambliss, Councilmember Paul Bonville, Councilmember Sharon Secord
- Rockledge Deputy Mayor Frank Forester, Councilmember John Lee Smith, Councilmember Shaun Ferguson, Councilmember Sammie Brown Martin, Councilmember Duane Daski, Councilmember Ted Hartselle
- Vice-Mayor Mark Brimer, Councilmember Mindy Gibson, Councilmember Dominick Montanaro, Councilmember Jodi Rozycki
- Titusville Vice-Mayor Dan Diesel, Councilmember Sarah Stoeckel, Councilmember Robert Jordan, Councilmember Jo Lynn Nelson



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Essentially, such practices are a form of double-taxation. Taxpayers that live in such taxing districts are the very people paying for the facilities; therefore, they should not be charged to access the fruits of their labor. Taxpayers are hard-working people, and it is incumbent on government to recognize that using their forced allocations to governmental-bodies, only to charge them to access the very facilities they pay for, is the height of absurdity.

As such, the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida does hereby request that all municipalities, within the boundaries of Brevard County, cease charging access fees at facilities to residents, and their minor children, who reside within the respective taxing district that fund them.

Sincerely,

Kristine Isnardi, Chair

As ratified by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

CC:

- Cape Canaveral Mayor Pro Tem Brown, Councilmember Wes Morrison, Councilmember Rocky Randels, Councilmember Angela Raymond
- Cocoa Beach Commissioner Ed Martinez, Commissioner Karalyn Woulas, Commissioner Skip Williams, Councilmember Mike Miller
- Indian Harbour Beach Deputy Mayor Scott Nickle, Councilmember Robert Sharek, Councilmember Jim Nolan, Sr., Councilmember Frank Guertin
- Grant Valkaria Councilmember Pat Bryan, Councilmember Cathy DeMott, Councilmember Dan Faden, Councilmember Lisette Kolar, Councilmember Dan Robino, Councilmember Tom Sammon
- Indialantic Deputy Mayor Stu Glass' Councilmember Dick Dunn, Councilmember Randy Greer Councilmember Simon Kemp
- Melbourne Beach Vice-Mayor Wyatt Hoover, Commissioner Sherri Quarrie, Commissioner Steve Walters, Commissioner Corey Runte
- Melbourne Village Vice-Mayor Rand Carroll, Commissioner Valerie Calenda, Commissioner Grayson Dix, Commissioner Richard Jones, Commissioner Gerda Murphy, Commissioner David Sinton
- Cocoa Deputy Mayor Brenda Warner, Councilmember Alex Goins, Councilmember Don Boisvert, Councilmember Lorraine Koss
- Melbourne Vice-Mayor Debbie Thomas, Councilmember Tim Thomas, Councilmember Mark LaRusso, Councilmember Yvonne Minus, Councilmember Paul Alfrey, Councilmember Julie Sanders
- Palm Bay Deputy Mayor Brian Anderson, Councilmember Harry Santiago Jr., Councilmember Kenny Johnson, Councilmember Jeff Bailey