



**AGENDA REPORT  
November 21, 2017**

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**SUBJECT:**

Censure of Jim Ridenour, Chairman of the Tourist Development Council

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

District 3

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Board passage of the attached resolution, thereby censuring the Chairman of the Tourist Development Council

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Jim Ridenour was appointed to the Tourist Development Council on December 11th, 2012. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Council.

On November 8th, 2017, Representative Randy Fine introduced House Bill 585, which would give the County an extra tool to fight pollution in the Indian River Lagoon. The lagoon is a critical tourist attraction and has direct and indirect impacts on the health and safety of citizens and visitors.

The next day, an article was published in *Florida Today* in which Jim Ridenour, identified as Chairman of the Brevard County Tourist Development Council, labeled Rep. Fine's proposal "criminal."

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Description**
- D **Resolution**

**REVIEWERS:**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>	<b>Action</b>
District 3	Tobia, John	Approved
County Manager	Abbate, Frank	Approved



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November 22, 2017

**M E M O R A N D U M**

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

**RE:** Item VI.F.1., Resolution Censuring Jim Ridenour, Chairman of the Tourist Development Council

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on November 21, 2017, considered request for a resolution censuring Jim Ridenour, Chairman of the Tourist Development Council, but took no formal action.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

cc: County Manager

RESOLUTION 17-\_\_\_\_\_

**CENSURE OF JIM RIDENOUR, CHAIRMAN OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, the Brevard County Tourist Development Council serves to advise and assist the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners in making important decisions in the best interest of all Brevard County citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Jim Barfield, a member of the Tourist Development Council, serves as a shining example of the professionalism expected on that Council, upon which other members are to be compared; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the Board of County Commissioners attempt to maintain a positive relationship with its delegation to the Florida legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, labeling a Representative's efforts to serve Brevard County citizens and visitors to the County as "criminal" is incredibly detrimental to this relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Ridenour, Chairman of the Brevard County Tourist Development Council, labeled Representative Randy Fine's proposal to give local governments more flexibility in allocating Tourist Development Tax revenue, House Bill 585, as "criminal" in an article published in *Florida Today* on November 9, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, linking a Representative of the Florida House of Representatives to criminal conduct is an extremely serious matter; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Fine is, in fact, attempting to preserve the health and wellbeing of Brevard County citizens and visitors, as is his right and obligation as an elected Representative of Brevard County citizens, by giving the County the authority to allocate funds to prevent human waste from being drained into the Indian River Lagoon; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon members of the Tourist Development Council to be upstanding and responsible leaders within Brevard County and protect and promote the health and safety of its citizens and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Ridenour has failed to meet his obligation to be an example of a responsible member of the tourism industry within Brevard County; and

**WHEREAS**, as General Manager of the Residence Inn Melbourne, located at 1430 S. Babcock St., Melbourne, FL 32901, Chairman Ridenour has managed a hotel which has been a habitual offender of the Health Code of the State of Florida, Chapter 381 Florida Statutes, accumulating 18 violations over the past five years; and

**WHEREAS**, such violations have included repeatedly allowing "heavy accumulation of mold-like substance" on drink dispensers; and

**WHEREAS**, additional violations include storing food on the floor; and

**WHEREAS**, employees of the Residence Inn Melbourne mishandled caustic chemicals within the restaurant kitchen, thereby creating a health hazard; and

**WHEREAS**, other threats to citizens' and visitors' health included failing to maintain food at safe temperatures which are necessary to prevent disease; and

**WHEREAS**, while the hotels of other members of the Tourist Development Council and its committee members have had even more citations, such as Tom Hermanson, whose company, Ocean Partners Hospitality LLLP, has been cited 192 times for violations, such as bed bugs being discovered, within the past five years at Best Western Ocean Beach Hotel & Suites in Cocoa Beach, Days Inn Port Canaveral in Cocoa Beach, Hampton Inn Breakfast Bar in Cocoa Beach, and Courtyard by Marriott in Cocoa Beach, the Chairman of the Tourist Development Council must be held to a higher standard; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners to hold its employees and advisors accountable for actions which are detrimental to the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY FLORIDA** does hereby censure Jim Ridenour of the Brevard County Tourist Development Council, for failing to meet his obligations as Chairman.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of November, A.D., 2017.

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CURT SMITH, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

ATTEST:

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SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK