



AGENDA REPORT
February 12, 2019

Rescinding Approval for Use of TDT Funds on Aquarium, District 3

SUBJECT:

Rescinding approval for use of TDT funds on aquarium

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, the project has been approved at \$10,000,000 over 8 years.

Rescension would allow the TDC to recommend other uses for these funds, consistent with statutory allowances for the Tourist Development Tax.

DEPT/OFFICE:

District 3

REQUESTED ACTION:

Board passage of the attached resolution

SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:

On September 18th, 2018, the Board was presented with a recommendation from the Tourist Development Council for approval of capital projects, including \$10,000,000 over 8 years for the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium.

The attached resolution would rescind that approval, thereby allowing the TDC to consider other projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▯ **Aquarium Rescind Resolution**



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February 13, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: John Tobia, District 3 Commissioner

RE: Item J.5., Rescinding Approval for Use of TDT Funds on Aquarium

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 12, 2019, considered rescinding approval for use of Tourist Development Tax funds on Aquarium, but took no formal action.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/cmw

cc: Each Commissioner
County Attorney
County Manager

RESOLUTION 19-_____

**RESOLUTION RESCINDING APPROVAL OF THE USE OF TDT REVENUES FOR
THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CONSERVATION CAMPUS AND AQUARIUM**

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, algal blooms, including those which have a direct impact on the health of citizens and visitors of Brevard County, have occurred in 2018, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Brevard County's brown tide is negatively impacting fisheries, recreation, tourism, and property values; 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

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

WHEREAS, while the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium may provide residents and visitors with a source of entertainment, its contribution to lagoon restoration would be minimal when compared to direct appropriations for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, should the Aquarium be a viable project within the free-market, it would remain a welcome addition to Brevard County attractions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY FLORIDA does hereby rescind approval of the use of Tourism Development Tax revenue to be allocated to the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 12th Day of February, 2019.

ATTEST:

KRISTINE ISNARDI, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

As approved Board 2/12/19

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK