

RESOLUTION No. 2018 –

RELATIVE TO CALLING FOR STATE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS TO INCREASE THE BED TAX AND DESIGNATE THE INCREASE FOR THE DISCOVER NIAGARA SHUTTLE OR OTHER TRANSPORTATION ENTITIES THAT SUPPORT TOURISM WITHIN THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS AND NIAGARA COUNTY

BY:

Council Member Christopher Voccio

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls believes in Home Rule and should be able to determine the most preferable way to pay for service to promote tourism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls sees an advantage to an additional 1% increase of the current Bed Tax to aid and promote tourism in the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls has an opportunity to assist the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in its operation of the Discover Niagara Shuttle or other entities for transportation or economic development purposes pursuant to New York State Tax Law Article 29 § 1201-d(a) authority to impose tax; and

WHEREAS, the Discover Niagara Shuttle service presently serves the City of Niagara Falls, and along the Niagara River Corridor to the Village of Youngstown; and

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls anticipates several benefits to an additional 1% increase of the current Bed tax, which would include:

1. Promote tourism by the ease of transportation to and from all the tourist sites in the City of Niagara Falls, Town of Lewiston, Village of Youngstown and in the future the City of Lockport and City of North Tonawanda;
2. Increase Shuttle connections to the City of Lockport and City of North Tonawanda;
3. Relieve congestion of tourism traffic on the roads, parking, and provide a scenic commute throughout the existing City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County tourist locations.

and

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Voccio _____ Touma _____

WHEREAS, there are several attractions in the City of Lockport: the Flight of Five Locks, Lockport Discovery Center, and the Lockport caves. Also attractions in the City of North Tonawanda: the Carousel Factory Museum and the Canal Fest. Thus the shuttle service would promote these attractions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls requests the State of New York Legislature to draft companion bills for the purposes of increasing the existing Bed Tax by 1% designated specifically to the Discover Niagara Shuttle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the drafting of this legislation on the State level would provide the City of Niagara Falls the option of passing a Home Rule Message in support of such legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that subsequent to the State's adoption, the City of Niagara Falls would have an opportunity to present a local law which would call for action to allow City of Niagara Falls residents and visitors, easy comfortable transportation between City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County attractions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls respectfully requests that the New York State Senate and Assembly submit companion bills that would pave the way for the City of Niagara Falls' Local Law and Public Hearing and that copies of this resolution be sent immediately to the City of Niagara Falls' state representatives.

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Voccio _____ Touma _____