

RESOLUTION No. 2019-

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

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member William Kennedy
Council Member Ezra P. Scott, Jr.
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member Christopher Voccio

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

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

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Voccio _____ Touma _____

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 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 various additional tourist sites in Niagara County;
2. 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls requests that the State of New York Senate and Assembly draft companion bills for the purpose 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 the 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 and comfortable transportation between the City of Niagara Falls and various other Niagara County attractions; and

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