



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

MEMORANDUM

October 12, 2016

TO: KDH Board of Commissioners

FROM: Mayor Sheila F. Davies

REF: Mayor's Agenda

1. Resolution Requesting Summer Traffic Control from the NC Highway Patrol (Attached MA-1)

Each weekend during the summer, traffic gridlock occurs at the intersection of US 158 and NC 12 in front of the Aycock Brown Welcome Center in Kitty Hawk. It lasts for hours at a time with little to no relief and causes great inconvenience, and potentially dangerous conditions, for our residents and visitors. Local law enforcement personnel have worked together to provide traffic control at the intersection and this has made a tremendous difference. Our local agencies are unable to continually provide the total law enforcement resources that are required to provide this coverage without seriously jeopardizing our ability to respond to other emergencies in our communities.

For two weekends this summer, the North Carolina Highway Patrol provided traffic control assistance to local agencies at the Aycock Brown area intersection, and their participation was greatly needed and appreciated. The Dare County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on October 3rd to adopt a resolution formally asking the North Carolina Highway Patrol to provide traffic control assistance at the intersection during summer weekends. A copy of their resolution is attached and the Dare County Board has requested each of the municipalities support their action by adopting a similar resolution. The target date is for Dare County to submit one unified package on behalf of all our entities by November 30th.

I recommend the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners support this matter by taking favorable action on the attached resolution which has been modified for our adoption. A motion will be in order.



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RESOLUTION BY THE KILL DEVIL HILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING SUMMER TRAFFIC CONTROL FROM THE NC HIGHWAY PATROL

WHEREAS, an important part of the tourism dollars that are generated for the State of North Carolina derive from visitation to the Outer Banks that occurs on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, weekend visitation during the summer season creates congestion and traffic problems that cause gridlock conditions at the intersection of Highway 158 and NC 12 in front of the Aycock Brown Welcome Center in Kitty Hawk; and

WHEREAS, the conditions that exist during summer weekends pose a serious threat to public safety not only at the Welcome Center intersection, but extend for miles in each direction, which results in backups and gridlock that stretch out through much of Currituck County on Highway 158 and to Corolla on NC 12; and

WHEREAS, the weekend gridlock that occurs at the Highway 158 and NC 12 intersection not only causes extreme backups and delays for motorists in both Dare and Currituck counties, it impedes emergency access for ambulances and other public safety vehicles; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2016, law enforcement agencies collaborated to assist with traffic control at the intersection of Highway 158 and NC 12 which included the North Carolina Highway Patrol on two weekends. This joint effort resulted in dramatically improved conditions and reduced the gridlock that has endangered the visitor experience and jeopardized public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners believes that the presence of law enforcement at the intersection of Highway 158 and NC 12 during summer weekends has proven to be successful and should be continued; and

WHEREAS, Dare County and its municipalities are not able to continually provide the total law enforcement resources that are required to provide weekend traffic control during summer weekends at the Welcome Center intersection without seriously jeopardizing our ability to respond to other emergencies that occur in our communities during the peak visitation season.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the North Carolina Highway Patrol provide traffic control assistance during summer weekends at the intersection of Highway 158 and NC 12 and use its professional and highly trained personnel to assist the many motorists traveling to the Outer Banks of North Carolina as a matter of public safety and to help preserve the tourism revenue stream that is in the best economic interest of North Carolina. This the 12th day of October, 2016.

SEAL

Sheila F. Davies, Mayor

Attest:

Mary E. Quidley, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENT MA-1