

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION 2025 –**

**WHEREAS**, Darrell and Gertrude Todd and Family from Brooksville opened **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** in an old boat manufacturing building on July 7, 1960; and

**WHEREAS**, Elvis Presley was in Inverness, Florida filming “Follow That Dream” and legend has it he ventured down to Brooksvegas for one of the Famous Footlongs in 1961; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred Rice in 1968 was brought on board and was the master hot dog slinger until 1992 and legend has it that he still keeps an eye on the place; and

**WHEREAS**, **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** was purchased by Ralph and Gene Collins in 1971; and

**WHEREAS**, the movie Death Dream was filmed in Coney Island for a day and was the highlight of the movie in 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, Walt Disney World was the only other institution that used more footlong hotdog buns in the state than **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** in the mid 1970’s; and

**WHEREAS**, Diggity Dog was born into the Family and has been the Brooksville icon since the mid 1970’s; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom Collins, son of Ralph and Gene Collins, purchased the family business with Daughter Daiquiri in 1985 and kept the Brooksville Tradition going into the 21st century; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hensley Family purchased the **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Sally Lee purchased **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** with her son Carter Lee, and they brought on Dad (John Lee) to help on May 5, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, five more locations opened in Crystal River (2020), Wildwood (2021), Bushnell (2023), Largo (2023), and Eustis (2024).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby recognizes and congratulates **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** upon the occasion of its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**SECTION 2.** The Board of County Commissioners urges all citizens to join in congratulating **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** on this special 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary milestone, in thanking the organization for their commitment to unsurpassed quality and to our community, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

**ADOPTED** in Regular Session this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Hawkins  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Champion  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Campbell  
Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Amsler  
Commissioner

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John Allocco  
Second Vice Chairman