

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

RESOLUTION 2025 – 107

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 65th Anniversary.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners urges all citizens to join in congratulating **CONEY ISLAND DRIVE-INN** on this special 65th 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.

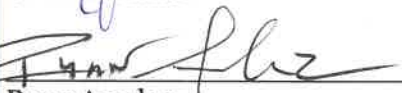
ADOPTED in Regular Session this 24th day of June 2025, A.D.

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

Attest:



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


Steve Champion
Commissioner


Ryan Amsler
Commissioner

Absent

Brian Hawkins
Chairman


Jerry Campbell
Vice Chairman


John Allocco
Second Vice Chairman

