



Item: Resolution 9791, Intent to Create Tourism Business Improvement District No. 1307.

From: Martha Capps, Operations Supervisor

Initiated By: Great Falls Area Lodging Association Committee

Presented By: Coleen Balzarini, Fiscal Services Director

Action Requested: City Commission Adopt Resolution 9791

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move the City Commission adopt/deny Resolution 9791 and set a public hearing for the creation of Tourism Business Improvement District No. 1307 for December 2, 2008”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls for the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the City Commission adopt Resolution 9791 and set a public hearing for the creation of Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) No. 1307 for December 2, 2008.

Background: The City Commission is authorized by M.C.A. 7-12-1101 - 1144 to create a business improvement district for the purpose of promoting tourism, conventions, trade shows, and travel to the City of Great Falls. The City is also authorized to assess the applicable property owners within the district any or all of the costs of funding all uses and projects for tourism promotion within Great Falls.

On October 21, 2008 staff received signed petitions, as shown on Exhibit “A” of the Resolution, and on file in the City Clerk’s office, from more than 60%, the required minimum, of the hotel owners in Great Falls, asking for the creation of the TBID. The boundary lines of the district are outlined on Exhibit “B” of the Resolution.

Property owners, as listed on Exhibit “C” of the Resolution, have 15 days after the date of the first publication of the Legal Notice or written notification as shown on Exhibits “D” of the Resolution, to make a written protest to the City Clerk against the proposed creation of the TBID.

Concurrences: Representatives from Fiscal Services have been working with the property owners and tourism marketers throughout the review and approval process.

Fiscal Impact: The assessment for the costs of tourism promotion and operating the TBID will be placed upon all parcels with hotels, with six (6) or more rooms, as defined as any structure, or any portion of any structure, which is occupied or intended or designed for occupancy by transients for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes and includes any hotel, inn, motel, or other similar structure or portion thereof, within the boundaries of the district.

The assessments will be a flat fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per occupied room night as prescribed in Section 7-12-1133, subsection (c), M.C.A.

Alternatives: The City Commission could choose to not adopt Resolution 9791 and not set the public hearing and thereby deny the Creation of the Tourism Business Improvement District No. 1307.

Attachments/Exhibits: Resolution 9791 w/ Exhibits

A – Customer Petition - on file in the City Clerk’s office

B – TBID Boundaries

C – Property Owner Listing

D – Legal Notice for Publication and Mailing

Cc: Gayle Fisher, Russell Country Tourism Region