



**RESOLUTION OPPOSING  
State Funding Cuts to Cultural and Historic Arts Programs**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Nags Head, the County of Dare, as well as other municipalities in North Carolina benefit from the Cultural and Historic Arts Programs and Facilities; AND

**WHEREAS**, drastic funding cuts to the programs and facilities are being proposed throughout North Carolina; AND

**WHEREAS**, State proposed cuts will reduce funding to Roanoke Island Festival Park by 50% this year and eliminate all state funding beginning next year; AND

**WHEREAS**, Roanoke Island Festival Park commemorates the site of the first settlement in the New World, sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh during the years 1584 to 1587; AND

**WHEREAS**, Site includes The *Elizabeth II*, The American Indian Town, Settlement Site, Adventure Museum, Art Gallery, Film Theatre, Auditorium, Pavilion, Boardwalk and Kayak Launch; AND

**WHEREAS**, Homeport of the *Elizabeth II*, a representative 16<sup>th</sup> century ship, built on the site of the Creef boathouse on the Manteo waterfront; AND

**WHEREAS**, Since the *Elizabeth II* was opened for visitors in July of 1984, until February 28, 2011 has been visited by an estimated public of 1,599,071; AND

**WHEREAS**, Festival Park hosts approximately 40 to 50 community events per year which brings in approximately 70,000 to 80,000 additional visitors to the park; AND

**WHEREAS**, On an average Roanoke Island Festival Park books 294 groups per year with approximately 13,736 visitors per year and these groups are made up of public, private, home school and other types of groups; AND

**WHEREAS**, Festival Park interprets 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade North Carolina history and approx. 50% to 60% of NC counties visit the park. To include Coastal, Central, Mountain regions of the state; AND

**WHEREAS**, Festival Park is the only park in NC interpreting the Roanoke Voyages and the first English settlement in the New World; AND

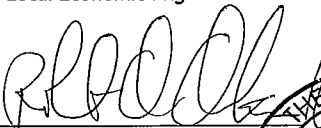
**WHEREAS**, will it not only affect Roanoke Island Festival Park but also the historic longest running outdoor play "The Lost Colony"; AND

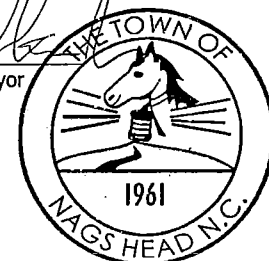
**WHEREAS**, the Arts are a vital part of our heritage and a major component of tourism and our economy on the Outer Banks; AND

**WHEREAS**, these cuts will not only affect the agencies and programs involved, but will also impact other peripheral parts of the economy-restaurants, lodging and retail shops.

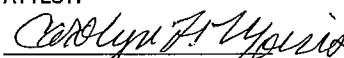
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Nags Head are opposed to any funding cuts that would affect our Local Economic Engine.

This the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

  
Robert O. Oakes, Jr., Mayor



ATTEST:

  
Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk