

Mayor  
Robert F. "Bob" Childs, III  
Town Administrator  
Dennis Pieper  
Town Clerk  
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC



Mayor Pro Tem  
David L. Pellegrino

Town Council  
Bruce H. Dietrich  
Mark L. Johnson  
Ron Ott  
Debbie T. Scoles  
Randle M. Stevens

**Town of Surfside Beach**  
*"The Family Beach"*

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Johnny Gardner (VIA EMAIL ONLY)  
Chairman, Horry County Council  
P.O. Box 1236  
Conway, SC 29528

**RECEIVED**  
APR 17 2019  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Chairman Gardner:

I respond on behalf of the Town of Surfside Beach to your letter of April 3, 2019, enclosing Horry County Council's unilateral proposal for allocating Hospitality Fee (Tax) revenues. Of course, Surfside Beach and its attorneys have reviewed closely the class action Complaint, filed on March 20, 2019, against the County by the City of Myrtle Beach. Since receiving your letter, we have also received and considered the response letters of April 10, addressed to you by the mayors of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach. Without repeating the points made in the response letters from Mayors Bethune and Hatley, suffice it to say that Surfside Beach finds their logic compelling and generally agrees with them on their substantive points.

In the interest of finding an amicable solution to this dispute – one that would serve all our citizens and taxpayers – Surfside Beach respectfully urges the County to reconsider its objection to confidential settlement negotiations. Our attorneys are clear that such negotiations are encouraged by South Carolina Evidence Rule 408 and routinely utilized for matters in litigation. I am unaware of any political subdivision that does not go into executive session to discuss legal matters. We can see no good reason for the County's refusal to engage with the municipalities in a confidential negotiation setting where the assembled parties could speak frankly and free from any pressures for public posturing. There is much at stake in this dispute, and I believe it is unlikely to be resolved through competing press releases.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

**TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH**

*Robert F. Childs III*

Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor

cc: All Horry County Mayors

**COPY**

*Dedicated people providing quality and responsive service to our community.*

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