

Requiring The Posting Of Audio Recordings Of Legislative Committee Meetings On The County's Official Website Within 72 Hours Of Adjournment Of The Committee Meeting

Referred to: The Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee (Chairman Belfiglio and Legislators Lopez, Ronk, Wawro, Bartels, John Parete, and Wishnick)

Legislator Bartels and Legislators Briggs, Donaldson, Gregorius, Loughran, John Parete, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, and Wishnick offer the following:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of government to ensure that its operations are conducted in an open and transparent fashion; and

WHEREAS, providing convenient access to government's actions is one way to restore the public's trust in the system and create a more informed public; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County residents are increasingly active on the World Wide Web and expect to find information on-line; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County currently maintains an official County website located at www.co.ulster.ny.us on the World Wide Web; and

WHEREAS, implementing a policy of immediate access to records of Legislative Committee activities would allow Ulster County residents the opportunity to review and examine the workings of County government and voice their positions to various government officials; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature already records audio of legislative meetings and therefore, no additional resources will be required to make these recordings available online; and

WHEREAS, the content of the recordings, and the recordings themselves, are a proper subject of the Freedom of Information Law and are also subject to the requirements of the New York State Open Meetings Law; and

WHEREAS, it currently takes up to several weeks for minutes of legislative committee meetings to be made available online on the County's website, this delay can render the content of the recordings irrelevant to a concerned citizen who seeks information in order to form an opinion as to the operation of government before a vote or other deadline; and

Resolution No. 250 November 13, 2012

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WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Ulster County Legislature to continually improve public access to its activities and transparency in government; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to upload audio recordings of Legislative Committee Meetings within seventy two (72) hours of their adjournment or completion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall begin posting these recordings beginning with legislative committee meetings scheduled for January 2013,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19 NOES: 3
(Noes: Legislators Gerentine, Harris, and Roberts)
(Absent: Legislator Belfiglio)

Passed Committee: Environmental, Energy, and Technology on November 1, 2012

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 13th day of November, 2012, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 14th Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Twelve.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature