

RESOLUTION NO. 128

ESTABLISHING TRANSPARENCY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT INVOLVING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Introduced: 3/14/16

By: Mr. Grimm

WHEREAS, 21st Century technology has created an enormous opportunity for transparency and citizen engagement in the government process, and

WHEREAS, This engagement can lead to an unprecedented opportunity for dialogue with citizens during the actual resolution/law-making process, and

WHEREAS, This new technology creates an additional opportunity to engage the newest generation of Albany County residents who are tech-savvy individuals and who communicate extensively via social media, and

WHEREAS, This same generation heavily utilizes mobile communication devices and social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc., and

WHEREAS, According to Tod Famous, product manager of Cisco, “The social media movement is causing noticeable acceleration in communication technology innovation,” and

WHEREAS, The current Obama Administration has pursued a range of open government initiatives guided by three principles; transparency, participatory and collaborative; an initiative that the Albany County Legislature should follow, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature systematically promote the availability of live streaming of legislative meetings so citizens will be aware of this benefit, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Chamber be equipped with free WI-FI service, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislature shall institute a hashtag system where a specific hashtag is established for each Legislative Meeting so that those interested in engaging in dialogue with each other, and with county legislators, can easily access the discussion via Twitter or Facebook, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the hashtag be concise and prominently displayed on each agenda coversheet and on the Albany County’s webpage, and be it further

RESOLVED, Digital, unedited files of the meetings (exception: any taping done while session is in recess can be deleted), be placed on the County Legislature's webpage within one hour following the conclusion of each meeting, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this system shall be implemented at the first monthly Legislative meeting when live streaming occurs, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to forward certified copies of said Resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law and Audit and Finance Committees. 3/14/16

Unfavorable Recommendation – Audit and Finance Committee. 3/30/16

Unfavorable Recommendation – Law Committee. 4/11/16

On roll call vote the following voted in favor: Mr. Burgdorf, Ms. Cunningham, Messrs. Dawson, Drake, Fein, Grimm, Higgins, Ms. Lekakis, Mr. Mauriello, Ms. McLean Lane, Messrs. Mendick, O'Brien and Stevens – 13.

Those opposed: Messrs. Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clenahan, Commisso, Crouse, Domalewicz, Ethier, Feeney, Hogan, A. Joyce, R. Joyce, Ms. Lockart, Messrs. Mackey, Mayo, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Miller, Signoracci, Simpson, Smith, Touchette, Tunny, Ward and Ms. Willingham – 24.

Resolution was defeated. 4/11/16