

RESOLUTION NO. 239

REQUIRING PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND ESTABLISHING THE ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION PORTAL

Introduced: 6/14/10

By Messrs. Horstmyer and Higgins:

WHEREAS, Information maintained by the Albany County government is a public asset, and

WHEREAS, Transparency and the disclosure of such information provides citizens with knowledge about their county government's responsibilities and actions, and

WHEREAS, Proactive disclosure of such information is facilitated through the use of certain information technologies, and

WHEREAS, Access to public information promotes public engagement in the policymaking process, and

WHEREAS, Public engagement and feedback enhances a government's effectiveness and improves the quality of its decisions, and

WHEREAS, Albany County is facing serious economic challenges, and

WHEREAS, Access to documents and information related to Albany County policy and finances should be readily available to, and usable by, county policymakers and residents to prepare them in confronting such challenges, and

WHEREAS, Disclosure of certain legislative and financial documents and information will encourage greater participation in the County policymaking and budgetary process by Albany County residents, and

WHEREAS, Albany County will benefit from public participation in the county policymaking process, and the 2011 county budget process, and

WHEREAS, The government of Albany County possesses the resources to undertake this effort of proactive disclosure, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature shall arrange for the disclosure on the Internet website of this Honorable Body of complete copies of all county records, as well as any proposed resolution, law, rule, regulation, policy or any amendment thereto, that are scheduled to be the subject of discussion by members of this Honorable Body during an open meeting of this Honorable Body, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such disclosure by the Clerk of the Legislature of such records, or proposed resolutions, laws, rules, regulations, or policies, shall be done not less than twenty-four hours prior to a public meeting of this Honorable Body during which such documents or materials will be discussed, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Department of Management and Budget (hereinafter "Commissioner") shall deliver to the Director of the Division of Information Services (hereinafter "Director") the balance, as of the first day of each month following the adoption of this resolution, of each account maintained by any depository of County funds, and the balance of any other account containing funds for which the County is responsible, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commissioner shall deliver to the Director such County account balance information no later than fifth day of each month following the adoption of this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commissioner shall deliver to the Director a copy of each report or correspondence that has been transmitted to the members of the Special Budget Review Committee for consideration at any public meeting of said committee, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commissioner shall deliver to the Director a copy of the aforementioned reports or correspondence no later than thirty days following the adoption of this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commissioner shall provide to the Director a copy of any future report or correspondence that is transmitted or provided to the members of the Special Budget Review Committee for consideration at a future public meeting of such committee immediately following the transmittal or provision of such report or correspondence to the members of such committee, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Comptroller (hereinafter "Comptroller") shall deliver to the Director copies of the Annual Financial Report and the Auditors Report, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Comptroller shall deliver to the Director a complete copy of each of the repayment schedules of outstanding County bonds managed by the Department of Audit and Control, the interest rate of each such bond, the outstanding balance of each such bond, and a brief statement of the purpose of each such bond, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That within forty-five days of the adoption of this resolution the Comptroller shall deliver to the Director the aforementioned County information, records, reports, or documents for bonds that are outstanding on the date of the adoption of this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Comptroller shall forward to the Director, a list of all Albany County Reserve accounts, their ending balance as of December 31, 2009, and a summary of each account's permitted use, the amount of cash or cash equivalents supporting each account balance, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Comptroller shall forward such Albany County Reserve account information to the Director no later than 30 days following the adoption of this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That on a quarterly basis, the Comptroller shall prepare and forward an updated report to the Director containing such information pertaining to Albany County Reserve accounts and newly issued bonds or amended bonds no later than 30 days from the end of each fiscal quarter, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any information provided to the Director pursuant to any provision of this resolution shall be provided in a format specified by the Director, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director shall facilitate the proper formatting and delivery of information by the Commissioner and the Comptroller required to be disclosed to the Director pursuant to this resolution by collaborating with any County office that possesses the equipment necessary for such formatting and delivery, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Division of Information Services (hereinafter "Division") shall develop a separate and distinct page on the Albany County government Internet website entitled the "Albany County Public Information and Participation Portal" (hereinafter "Portal"), and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Division shall post in a clear and accessible manner on the Portal all information, documents or materials required to be disclosed to the Division of Information Services pursuant to this resolution, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Division shall post on the Portal such information, documents or materials required to be disclosed to the Division pursuant to this resolution within twenty days of the receipt of such information, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Division shall post on the Portal hyperlinks to any operative county budget, and quarterly sales tax revenue reports encompassing a period three years prior to any operative county fiscal year, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Division shall post a clear and conspicuous hyperlink to the Portal on the homepage of the Albany County government Internet website that is visible upon first loading the Albany County government Internet website homepage, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body shall retain the authority to adopt policies related to the content of the Portal, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law and Audit and Finance Committees. 6/14/10