

RESOLUTION NO. 26613

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOUSE BILL 1309/SENATE BILL 1263 AS WRITTEN, WHICH WILL ALLOW HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE MUNICIPALITIES THEREIN TO POST PUBLIC NOTICES ON A COUNTY OR CITY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE.

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WHEREAS, Throughout our nation, municipalities and small towns are facing decreased revenues and federal funding, unfunded mandates, loss of jobs, and increased demands for city services, making it imperative for cities to find effective ways to save money and be efficient stewards of taxpayer's money; and

WHEREAS, This general loss of revenue and increase in services gives cities a clear, logical mandate to look for ways to cut unnecessary spending; and

WHEREAS, There has been a steady decline in newspaper readership in the past several decades, while, at the same time there has been an increase in the number of households with access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, Many counties and municipalities maintain an official government web site that is available to the public twenty-four hours per day; and

WHEREAS, Many legal notices published solely in newspapers go unread and unnoticed by the public because casual newspaper readers generally do not read the legal notices section; and

WHEREAS, Permitting the publication of legal notices on an official government web site will make those notices more easily accessible to a greater number of people, thereby promoting increased public participation in government; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee General Assembly House Bill 1309/Senate Bill 1263 will allow Hamilton County and the municipalities therein the ability to save taxpayer money by allowing cities to post online public notices on a city or county website, and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1309/Senate Bill 1263 further offers protections to those who may not have access to the internet by allowing them to receive a copy of any notices by formal request to the city, and

WHEREAS, Because the local newspaper in Chattanooga feels so strongly of the importance of Public Notices, in accordance with this resolution, the City Council would like to encourage our local newspaper to consider publishing legal notices for free as a service for their readers; and

WHEREAS, All across our state, municipalities and towns are proposing or considering legislation to allow public notices to be placed on a government sanctioned website, including, Knox County, Tennessee, who recently introduced a pilot program to allow their legal notices to be placed on their municipal internet site;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, that this City Council wishes to offer this resolution in support of Tennessee General Assembly House Bill 1309/Senate Bill 1263 as written, in order to give our government new opportunities to save taxpayer money and make searching for public notices easier and clearer online through our locally supported government websites.

ADOPTED March 1, 2011

ML/add