

RESOLUTION NO. 123

REQUIRING TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY MANDATING REASONABLE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Introduced: 4/8/13

By Messrs. Nichols, Bullock, Clenahan, O'Brien and Ms. Kinsch:

WHEREAS, The Albany County Charter sets forth requirements and powers to several policymaking boards of the County, including the Board of Contract Administration, the County Board of Health and the County Planning Board, and

WHEREAS, Article 13 of the Albany County Charter established the Board of Contract Administration comprised of the County Executive, the County Clerk and the Chairperson of the County Legislature; Article 9 of the Albany County Charter established the Albany County Board of Health; and Article 11 of the Albany County Charter created the County Planning Board, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Charter authorizes the County Executive to bind the County to agreements less than \$20,000 and the Board of Contract Administration to bind the County to financial commitments between \$20,000 and \$100,000, and

WHEREAS, The Charter requires the Board to report to the County Legislature "periodically" its decisions, however, in practice, there is no reporting schedule established to make sure that the County Legislature or the public is aware of tax spending decisions by the Executive or decisions/discussions of the aforementioned boards, and

WHEREAS, It is in the public interest of all residents of Albany County to have transparency at all levels of government to be aware of all decisions that spend taxpayer money, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Contract Administration, the County Board of Health and the County Planning Board shall notify the public and the County Legislature of any meeting of such Boards, including the time and location of such meeting, and the meeting agenda and any minutes in a manner consistent with public notice requirements for county legislative committee meetings prior to any meeting of the Board of Contract Administration, the Board of Health and the Planning Board, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all actions taken by the Board of Contract Administration, the Board of Health and the Planning Board at such meetings shall be made available to the public immediately following such meetings and that all actions of

such meetings including minutes and adopted decisions be posted on the County's website within 10 business days following the conclusion of any meeting of such Boards, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Executive is hereby requested to provide quarterly reports to the Legislature consisting of copies of the actual authorizing documents or summarizing information of all contracts entered into as provided for in the County Charter valued at less than \$20,000 and make public such information on the County website in a report that clearly exhibits the contracts that have been entered into solely by the County Executive within 10 business days following such action, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Contract Administration provide a cumulative report within six months of the adoption of this resolution that describes by year the total amount of all contracts entered into by the Board of Contract Administration since enactment of the County Charter in 1993 and archive such information on the County's website, 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 Personnel Committee. 4/8/13