

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1263

A resolution requesting the Tennessee General Assembly to introduce and enact legislation to allow for online publication, instead of newspaper publication, when public notices are required.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Code Annotated specifically requires certain public notices be published in a newspaper of general circulation, such as Tenn. Code Ann. § 13-7-303, or a newspaper published within the locality, such as Tenn. Code Ann. § 5-5-105; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 1-3-120 does allow for publication of public notices on the website of that newspaper for no additional cost; and

WHEREAS, despite this, compliance with newspaper publication requirements is expensive and costs the Metropolitan Government of Nashville tens of thousands of dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Metropolitan Clerk, that office alone spent approximately \$15,000 on publication of public notices in the fiscal year between 2016 and 2017, which is roughly the average annual publication cost for the past few years; and

WHEREAS, newspaper readership has been declining for over a decade as more people have gained access to digital information; and

WHEREAS, publication of notices on a single government website would create a centralized system where all notices of Metropolitan department meetings can be kept, ensuring notices can be easily found and efficiently organized; and

WHEREAS, in the interests of efficiency and cost effectiveness, the Tennessee General Assembly should introduce and enact legislation to allow the Metropolitan Government to publish public notices on the Nashville.gov website in lieu of requiring publication in a newspaper.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as requesting the Davidson County Delegation to the Tennessee General Assembly introduce and enact legislation to allow for publication of notices on the governmental website, instead of newspaper publication, when public notices are required.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to each member of the Davidson County Delegation to the Tennessee General Assembly.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

SPONSORED BY:

Davette Blalock
Member of Council