

RESOLUTION NO.14-108

REQUESTS NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL IMPLEMENT VIDEO ON DEMAND BROADCASTS OF ALL PUBLICALLY ADVERTISED NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, “Citizens should pay attention to their government. Society should use every means possible to make that act easier. And that includes being able to watch it on a television or computer screen,” as stated by the *Wilmington News Journal* Editorial Board (*Wilmington News Journal* Opinion 12/19/2013); and

WHEREAS, various legislative bodies have advanced communications with its citizens via broadcasts of its deliberations and public voting process, including the United States Congress, Sussex County Council, and Wilmington City Council; and

WHEREAS, “video on demand” broadcasts provide more information than the required post-meeting minutes and the extra after-the-event recording, providing citizens with a real-time view of its government in action; and

WHEREAS, “video on demand” is a planned system using video compression to supply programs to viewers when requested, via integrated services digital network or cable; and

WHEREAS, video broadcasts by various legislative bodies throughout the United States of America have enhanced public trust, greater transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, video broadcasts provide more information than the required post-meeting minutes and the extra after-the-event recordings providing citizens with a video record view of its government in action; and

WHEREAS, video broadcasts enable citizens to carefully consider various points of view, which they may not have previously considered; and

WHEREAS, due to advancements in social media and internet technology, citizens now have an expectancy for access to their national and local governments’ deliberations; and

WHEREAS, all publically advertised County Council meetings should be broadcast because each elected County Councilperson is participating in conducting the public’s business and spending the taxpayers’ public funds. Televising meetings is not an invitation for elected officials to pontificate and make long statements and political speeches, but to allow each citizen to observe their elected officials at the convenience of each citizen’s personal schedule; and

WHEREAS, the public has a right to observe and determine if their elected officials are maintaining the highest standards of ethical behavior and fiscal prudence; and

WHEREAS, the media is able to both report upon and analyze elected officials’ and citizens’ collective comments, even when the media is unable to attend; and

WHEREAS, it now is economically and practically feasible to video broadcast County Council proceedings at a nominal cost due to advancements in modern technology. Video services are a low cost solution for streaming and televising government meetings. Our citizens will be able to watch when they want and where they want, with video on demand streaming; and

WHEREAS, New Castle County Council would safeguard and archive all video and recorded meeting recordings to ensure the integrity of the recording; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by and for the County Council of New Castle County that County Council hereby implement video on demand broadcasts of all publically advertised New Castle County Council meetings and made available to the public.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on 04/22/2014

President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: Same as title.

FISCAL IMPACT: Council will contract with an outside company to implement video on demand video broadcasts of the 144 scheduled workshop and regular meetings of County Council. The fiscal note will be based on the RFI.