

April 25, 2017

Honorable Council Members:

I am writing to ask for your support for resolution #17-0431 on the May agenda. I want to give you a bit of background on why I introduced this legislation.

About a year ago, I stumbled upon an irregularity in Legistar that concerned me. I addressed it with the appropriate personnel. A few months later, another issue came up - also addressed. Then in the last few weeks I discovered some inconsistencies that were even more significant. I explain this to you in part to be clear that the resolution is not aimed at anyone in particular nor does it address a single problem. Rather, it incorporates all of the issues I have encountered and applies across the board.

It was not until April that I began to realize the extent of the irregularities in how the Legistar program is applied. At that time, it became clear to me that this was not something that could continue to be addressed on a case by case basis. I believe the problem is systemic and requires a broad, policy solution endorsed by the governing body.

All of the details in the resolution were derived from previous experience. If I've overlooked anything, I would welcome your amendments. The 24 hour requirement may be unpopular and challenging to meet. However, I think it is the least amount of time we should give the public to review documents and it is consistent with the public notice requirement. And, as with any change, people will adapt.

The sole purpose of formalizing these requirements is to ensure consistent transparency and accessibility to city government. It was for those same reasons I introduced legislation to broadcast video of council meetings via internet and television. In a very real sense, this measure is even more important. In order for citizens to have a voice and participate in the process, they must have the information *prior* to the public hearings and discussions and decisions.

I believe this policy is essential to open government and I'm asking for your support. If you have any questions, please reply to this e-mail or call me at 608-397-1007.

Sincerely,

Jai Johnson