

RESOLUTION NO. R2011-23

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICES
ON MUNICIPAL WEBSITES.

WHEREAS, throughout our nation, municipalities 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 website 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,

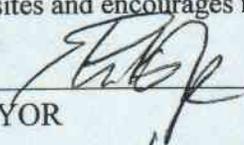
WHEREAS, permitting the publication of legal notices on an official government website will make those notices more easily accessible to a greater number of people, thereby promoting increased public participation in government; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities can offer protection to citizens who may not have access to the internet by allowing them to read postings in public places and/or to receive copies of public notices by request from the town; and,

WHEREAS, because newspapers feel strongly that it is important to print public notices in their papers, in accordance with this resolution, the Town of Signal Mountain would like to encourage newspapers to print such notices for free as a public service; and,

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Signal Mountain, Tennessee supports the publication of government notices on locally supported official government websites and encourages newspapers to print such notices for free as a public service.



MAYOR



RECORDER

3/14/11

DATE

3/14/11

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