

Graber, Robert

From: Paul Wolf <paulwolf2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 12:45 AM
To: Graber, Robert
Subject: Fwd: Open Government
Attachments: Erie County Open Govt. Resolution.doc

Mr. Graber:

I would appreciate having this email and a printed copy of the attached resolution placed on the agenda for the next Erie County Legislature meeting.

Paul Wolf
www.reinventinggov.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Paul Wolf <paulwolf2@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 29, 2013 at 2:28 AM
Subject: Open Government
To: Timothy.Hogues@erie.gov, BettyJean.Grant@erie.gov, "Marinelli, Lynn" <Lynn.Marinelli@erie.gov>, Kevin.Hardwick@erie.gov, Thomas.Loughran@erie.gov, edward.rath@erie.gov, Thomas.Mazur@erie.gov, Terrence.McCracken@erie.gov, Lynne.Dixon@erie.gov, joseph.lorigo@erie.gov, jmills13@erie.gov

Communities across the country are taking proactive steps to make their local governments more open and engaging for citizens.

In the blog post below I highlight the steps that have been taken in Philadelphia to make government more open and transparent.

Similar steps can be taken in Erie County, but someone has to step forward and raise the issue. Attached is a Resolution that can be introduced to start a discussion about this important issue. I would be happy to discuss this issue at a future Committee meeting.

Pretty much everyone says they favor transparency in government, let's make it happen.

<http://reinventinggov.org/2013/03/29/philadelphia-making-open-government-happen/>

Paul Wolf

By:

Re: Creating An Open Government Advisory Board

WHEREAS, the County of Erie is committed to creating a high level of openness and transparency in government; and

WHEREAS, the three principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration form the cornerstone of an open government; and

WHEREAS, more government information should be published and made available via the Internet which will provide greater public access to information and a mechanism for public feedback and participation; and

WHEREAS, the demands of an across-the-board open government framework require the assistance of a Open Government Advisory Board, to guide these initiatives; and

WHEREAS, goals and timetables should be established for development and implementation of an overall Open Government Plan to enhance and develop transparency, public participation, and collaboration in all County of Erie activities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The County Executive, shall designate a department head to serve as a liaison to the Open Government Advisory Board. The liaison will lead the Open Government initiatives outlined in this Resolution, including working with city departments and agencies to establish standards for publication of information and the most effective means for making such information available. The liaison will report to the County Executive regarding Open Government initiatives.
- 3) The County Executive shall appoint an Open Government Advisory Board. The Board shall consist of nine members, including the liaison, and shall be chaired by an individual designated by the County Executive. The Advisory Board shall meet regularly at such times as the Board decides, and its members shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive.
- 4) The Advisory Board, shall develop and publish an Open Government Plan. The plan will detail, including specific actions and timelines, the steps that the County of Erie will take to incorporate the principles of open government into its daily activities.

The Plan shall be formulated with the input of senior policy, legal, and technology leadership in the County; open government experts; and the general public.

Components of the Open Government Plan shall include:

- (1) **Transparency:** Steps the County will take to conduct its work more openly and publish its information online, including ready public access to ordinances and regulations, policies,

legislative records, budget information, crime statistics, public health statistics, and other information.

(2) **Public Participation:** Description of how the County will enhance and expand opportunities for the public to participate throughout each department's decision-making process, including instructions for online access to published information and opportunities for comment; methods for identifying stakeholders and other affected parties and encouraging their participation; links to appropriate websites where the public can engage in the County's existing participatory processes; and proposed changes to internal management and administrative policies to increase public participation.

(3) **Collaboration:** Steps the County will take to enhance and expand cooperation among its departments and agencies, other governmental agencies, private and nonprofit entities, and the public, to fulfill city goals and obligations; including proposals to use technology platforms and links to appropriate websites to improve, and inform the public about, existing collaboration efforts, and use of innovative methods to obtain ideas from and to increase collaboration with those in the private sector, nonprofit and academic communities.

5) A portal/place shall be established on the County's website that will serve as the source for County-wide and departmental activities with respect to this open government initiative.

6) Each County department and agency shall develop a schedule for making information available to the public and updating it on a regular basis. To the extent practicable and subject to valid restrictions, agencies shall publish information on line (in addition to other planned or mandated publication methods), and in an open format. The open format will provide data in a form that can be retrieved, downloaded, indexed, searched and reused by commonly used web search applications and software.

7) The Open Government Portal shall include a mechanism for the public to give feedback on and assess the quality of published information, provide input about what information should be a priority for publication, and provide input on the County's Open Government Plan.

8) Progress toward meeting the Open Government goals set forth in this Resolution shall be evaluated six months from the adoption date of this Resolution, again one year from the adoption date, and annually thereafter. The evaluation shall be released on the Open Government Portal, and shall include criteria to be developed by the Advisory Board.