

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Hanover County held in the Board Room of the Hanover County Administration Building on the 24th day of July, 2013, at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. W. Canova Peterson, Chairman
Mr. Sean M. Davis, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Wayne T. Hazzard
Mrs. Angela Kelly-Wiecek
Mr. Aubrey M. Stanley
Mr. G. E. "Ed" Via, III
Mr. Elton J. Wade, Sr.
Mr. Cecil R. Harris, Jr., County Administrator
Mr. Sterling E. Rives, III, County Attorney

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO THE VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

WHEREAS, in enacting the Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3700 *et seq.* of the Code of Virginia), the Virginia General Assembly determined that "[t]he affairs of government are not intended to be conducted in an atmosphere of secrecy since at all times the public is to be the beneficiary of any action taken at any level of government"; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly also declared that the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act "shall be liberally construed to promote an increased awareness by all persons of governmental activities and afford every opportunity to citizens to witness the operations of government"; and

WHEREAS the Freedom of Information Act currently provides that a "meeting" of a public body occurs whenever three or more members, or two members if the body is comprised of only three members, assemble for the purpose of discussing public business; and

WHEREAS, the current definition of "meeting" prevents the informal discussion of issues among three members, even when three is less than a quorum, and complicates the duty of senior staff personnel to meet with members to distribute information and discuss issues, thereby requiring additional staff resources, reducing the efficiency of government and increasing costs to the public; and

WHEREAS opportunities for informal discussion and "brain storming" sessions among three or more members of a public body, but less than a quorum, would enhance the formation of new ideas and analysis of difficult issues; and

WHEREAS a modification of the definition of "meeting" in the Freedom of Information Act to provide that a "meeting" occurs only when a quorum of the public body assembles would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public bodies while continuing to support the goals

and objectives of the Freedom of Information Act, because no assemblage of less than a quorum of the members of a public body can transact public business; and

WHEREAS proposed modifications to the Freedom of Information Act are attached to this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hanover County Board of Supervisors request that the Virginia General Assembly amend the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to provide that a "meeting" of a public body occurs only when a quorum of that body gathers for the purpose of discussing or transacting public business; and

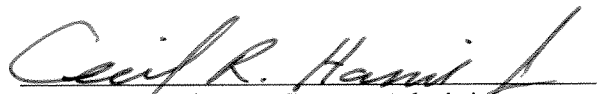
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Coalition for Open Government and the Virginia Press Association, so that those organizations can consider the proposals and decide whether to support the Board of Supervisors' request.

On motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mrs. Kelly-Wiecek, members of the Board of Supervisors voted to adopt this Resolution as follows:

	Vote:
W. Canova Peterson	Aye
Sean M. Davis	Aye
Wayne T. Hazzard	Aye
Angela Kelly-Wiecek	Aye
Aubrey M. Stanley	Aye
G. E. "Ed" Via, III	Aye
Elton J. Wade, Sr.	Aye

The undersigned certifies that this is a correct copy of the Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

Date: July 29, 2013


Cecil R. Harris, Jr., County Administrator
Clerk, Hanover County Board of Supervisors