

June 16~~5~~, 2020

**COMMITTEE TRANSPARENCY RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE STANDING PROCEDURAL RULES TO REQUIRE COMMITTEE TRANSPARENCY BY GIVING ADEQUATE NOTICE TO ALL COMMISSIONERS OF ANY SPECIALLY CALLED MEETING OF ANY COMMITTEE CREATED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND TO PROVIDE FOR A MINORITY REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the board of commissioners of DeKalb County has the authority to enact and amend parliamentary rules to govern how the legislative branch transacts business;

**WHEREAS**, the board of commissioners have enacted Standing Procedural Rules which were originally adopted on 1990 and have been amended on ~~a number of several~~ occasions since then with the most recent revision having been adopted in October of 2019;

**WHEREAS**, the Standing Procedural Rules do not provide for a ~~particular form form~~ and timing for notice of specially called meetings of committees of the board of commissioners (“BOC Committees”);

**WHEREAS**, state law, specifically the Open Meetings Act requires at least twenty-four (24) hours advance notice, ~~except in special circumstances, in a specific manner,~~ of all specially called BOC Committee meetings;

**WHEREAS**, the board of commissioners finds that it is important that action by committees be transparent and open by ensuring that all commissioners are given adequate notice of all specially called BOC Committee meetings and it is equally imperative that all Committee members be given adequate notice of such specially called BOC Committee meetings;

**WHEREAS**, the Organizational Act of DeKalb County, 1981 Ga. Laws, p. 4304, as amended and codified as Section 12 of the Organizational Act, authorizes the Presiding Officer, the Chief Executive Officer and any four Commissioners to call a specially called meeting of the BOC, but at least three days advance notice of such meeting must be given to all Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, there are times when a Committee Chair possesses a different opinion on the recommended action for one or more items having been heard in committee and the Standing Procedural Rules are being amended to allow the Chair to express his/her different opinion, referred to as a minority report;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the board of commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia to amend its Standing Procedural Rules as follows:

1. Article II, entitled **Parliamentary Rules**, is amended to add the following new subsection 13 to read as follows:

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13. **Minority Report from Chair of Committee.** As required by Article I, Section 7 of these Rules, the chair of each committee is to be recognized first for a motion on any agenda item assigned to that committee. In the event, the chair wishes to present a different opinion (i.e. a minority position) from the majority of the committee on any agenda item, the chair may use the following process for presentation of his/her minority position. As a minority member of the committee, the chair would state that he/she does not agree with the majority and would like to express his/her view on the recommendation of the committee via substitute motion at the appropriate time. The substitute would require a second and would have to be voted on prior to the main motion.

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+2. Article VI, entitled "**Committees**" is amended to add the following new subsection 11 to read as follows:

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2. **11. Notice of Specially Called Committee Meetings.** The chair of each committee or two members of that committee, exclusive of the chair, shall be authorized to call a specially called meeting of that committee. All commissioners shall be given forty eight (48) hours ~~three days~~ advance notice of the specially called meeting. Advance notice shall be by email to the commissioner's county email address, ~~and by telephone to a telephone number designated by each commissioner to the clerk.~~ The email notice shall include a copy of the agenda and shall identify any participants/presenters, or group of participants who have asked to present information, or been invited to participate or attend the meeting. ~~When it becomes necessary, in an emergency,~~ less than ~~forty eight (48) 3 days notice~~ hours' notice of such specially called committee meeting may be given, but in no event shall such specially called committee meeting be held without at least 24 hours advance notice in the manner required by this section and state law, and in such case, the agenda must specifically identify the necessity for the meeting facts or nature of the emergency which prevented the giving of three days advance notice to all Commissioners.

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**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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**STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

June 16~~5~~, 2020

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
Clerk ~~to the Chief Executive Officer-~~  
County Attorney  
and the Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**

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**WHEREAS**, the Standing Procedural Rules do not provide for a form and timing for notice of specially called meetings of committees of the board of commissioners (“BOC Committees”);

**WHEREAS**, state law, specifically the Open Meetings Act requires at least twenty-four (24) hours advance notice, except in special circumstances, of all specially called BOC Committee meetings;

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**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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**STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

June 16, 2020

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
Clerk to the Chief Executive Officer  
and the Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney