

A RESOLUTION CREATING "OPEN BOOK EWASHTENAW.ORG" THE
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2010

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners is a public body elected by the citizens of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, the business of Washtenaw County is to be done on behalf of the citizens of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is already a leader in transparency with the extensive ewashtenaw.org web site; and

WHEREAS, the public has come to expect and require transparency of their local, state and federal governmental bodies; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has led the way with the transparency initiative undertaken by the federal government in relation to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Federal Chief Information Officer and Federal Chief Technology Officer "highly encourage" state and local governments to follow a directive from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget calling for "hardwiring transparency into the public process"; and

WHEREAS, examples of transparency are available to follow for best practices and procedures throughout the State of Michigan and the US; and

WHEREAS, a transparency team has been created with staff, administration and elected officials to create and implement policies and procedures pertaining to the creation and maintenance of "Open Book eWashtenaw.org"; and

WHEREAS, the transparency team has sought input from elected officials, department heads, and various internal groups where the initiative received support; and

WHEREAS, the presumption of openness does not preclude the legitimate protection of information whose release is exempted by the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, or in any other way protected by any applicable state or federal law, would threaten security, invade personal privacy, breach confidentiality, or in any way damage other genuinely compelling interests; and

WHEREAS, timely publication of information is an essential component of transparency;
and

WHEREAS, an open format is one that is platform independent, machine readable, and made available to the public without restrictions that would impede the re-use of that information.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners will create a transparency web portal accessible to the public including but not limited to detailed budget and expenditure information as it relates to county business.