



RESOLUTION R-40-2020

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO OHIO'S OPEN MEETING ACT AND ALLOW PUBLIC BODIES TO HOLD AND ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS VIRTUALLY

WHEREAS, Ohio continues to be challenged by the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, currently over half of Ohio's counties are at Level 3 under the Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System, Very High Risk of exposure, and over two-thirds of the state's population resides in a "red" county; and

WHEREAS, given the current level of COVID-19 cases in Ohio and across the nation, and with the statutory exemption contained in Am. Sub. H.B. 197 to Ohio's Open Meeting Law granting public bodies and their members the ability to attend and conduct virtual electronic meetings expiring on December 1, 2020, there is an immediate need to provide for the safety and security of Ohio communities by reauthorizing and extending this exemption; and

WHEREAS, SB 365 proposes to provide this reauthorization and we urge prompt action be taken to move this legislation forward to help preserve the health, safety, and general welfare of all Ohioans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Council for the City of New Albany, Counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The New Albany City Council and Mayor hereby call on the Ohio General Assembly to reauthorize and for Governor Mike DeWine to sign legislation allowing Ohio public bodies the ability to hold and attend public meetings virtually.

Section 2: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this council concerning and relating to the adoption of this legislation were adopted in an open meeting of council, and that all deliberations of the council and or any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with Section 121 of the Ohio Revised Code, and further pursuant to Ohio General Assembly 133 – House Bill 197 effective March 27, 2020.

Section 3. Pursuant to Article 6.07(A) of the New Albany Charter, this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

CERTIFIED AS ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Attest:

Sloan T. Spalding
Mayor

Jennifer H. Mason
Clerk of Council

Approved as to form:

Mitchell H. Banchefsky
Law Director

Legislation dates:

Prepared: 11/06/2020

Revised: 11/10/2020

Introduced: 11/17/2020

Revised:

Adopted:

PROPOSED