

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-028**

**TO AMEND RULE 4 (“REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS”), SECTION 4.1 (“IN GENERAL”) OF THE RULES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY TO INCLUDE NOTICE THAT ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF COUNTY COUNCIL ARE BROADCAST AND STREAMED**

**WHEREAS**, Council Rule 4 governing the date; day and time when Regular Council meetings shall be held; and

**WHEREAS**, “Citizens should pay attention to their government. Society should use every means possible to make that act easier. And that includes being able to watch it on a television or computer screen”, as stated by the News Journal Editorial Board (Wilmington News Journal Opinion December 19, 2013); and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of New Castle County Council to provide transparency that will enhance the public trust in our government by providing proper and timely notice of all regular Council meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the County Executive’s Open Government initiative, County Council would like to begin broadcasting and streaming regular meetings on the County TV station. Council believes that this will provide an important, informational service to the citizens of New Castle County; and

**WHEREAS**, various legislative bodies have advanced communications with its citizens via broadcasts of its deliberations and public voting process; including the United States Congress, Sussex County Council, and Wilmington City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, live broadcasts by various legislative bodies throughout the United States of America have enhanced public trust, greater transparency and accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, live broadcasts provide more information than traditional post-meeting minutes and after-the-event recordings; providing citizens with a real-time view of its government in action; and

**WHEREAS**, live broadcasts enable citizens to carefully consider various points of view, which they may not have previously considered; and

**WHEREAS**, live broadcasts enable citizens to personally observe real-time deliberations, presentations and decision making; and

**WHEREAS**, due to advancements in social media and internet technology, citizens now have an expectancy of real-time access to their national and local governments’ deliberations; and

**WHEREAS**, all publically advertised County Council meetings should be broadcast because each elected County Councilperson is participating in conducting the public’s business and spending the taxpayers’ public funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the public has a right to observe and determine if their elected officials are maintaining the highest standards of ethical behavior and fiscal prudence; and

**WHEREAS**, the broadcasting of New Castle County Council meetings enables each citizen to observe their elected officials at the convenience of each citizen's personal schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, the media is able to both report upon and analyze elected officials' and citizens' collective comments, even when the media is unable to attend; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now economically and practically feasible to broadcast County Council proceedings at a nominal cost due to advancements in modern technology.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New Castle County that County Council hereby amends Rule No. 4. Regular Council Meetings Rule 4.1.of the Rules of Procedure of New Castle County Council as set forth below by adding the material that is underscored:

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL RULES**

##### **RULE NO. 4. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

4.1. In General. Regular Council meetings shall be held in Council Chambers at six-thirty (6:30) p.m. every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of the month, except in the months of August and December in which only one meeting shall be held, unless otherwise changed by a majority vote of Council. All publically advertised County Council meetings will be televised on the County cable station and rebroadcast on the County web site.

Adopted by County Council of  
New Castle County on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of County Council  
of New Castle County

**SYNOPSIS:** Same as title.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**