

**RESOLUTION NO. 2197**

**“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 1309/SENATE BILL 1263 AS WRITTEN, IN ORDER TO GIVE THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY AND MAKE SEARCHING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES EASIER AND CLEARER ONLINE THROUGH OUR LOCALLY SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT WEBSITE.”**

**WHEREAS**, throughout our nation, municipalities and small towns are facing decreased revenues and federal funding, unfunded mandates, loss of jobs, and increased demands for city services, making it imperative for cities to find effective ways to save money and be efficient stewards of taxpayer's money; and

**WHEREAS**, this general loss of revenue and increase in services gives cities a clear, logical mandate to look for ways to cut unnecessary spending; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a steady decline in newspaper readership in the past several decades, while, at the same time there has been an increase in the number of households with access to the Internet; and

**WHEREAS**, many counties and municipalities maintain an official government website that is available to the public twenty-four (24) hours per day; and

**WHEREAS**, many legal notices published solely in newspapers go unread and unnoticed by the public because casual newspaper readers generally do not read the legal notices section; and

**WHEREAS**, permitting the publication of legal notices on an official government website will make those notices more easily accessible to a greater number of people, thereby promoting increased public participation in government; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee General Assembly House Bill 1309/Senate Bill 1263 will allow Hamilton County and the municipalities therein the ability to save taxpayer money by allowing cities to post online public notices on a city or county website; and

**WHEREAS**, HB1309/SB1263 further offers protections to those who may not have access to the internet by allowing them to receive a copy of any notices by formal request to the city; and

**WHEREAS**, because the local newspaper in Chattanooga feels so strongly of the importance of Public Notices, in accordance with this resolution, the City Council of the

City of East Ridge would like to encourage our local newspaper to consider publishing legal notices for free as a service for their readers; and

**WHEREAS**, all across our state, municipalities and towns are proposing or considering legislation to allow public notices to be placed on a government sanctioned website, including, Knox County, Tennessee, who recently introduced a pilot program to allow their legal notices to be placed on their municipal internet site;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of East Ridge, Tennessee wishes to offer this resolution in support of House Bill 1309/Senate Bill 1263 as written, in order to give our government new opportunities to save taxpayer money and make searching for public notices easier and clearer online through our locally supported government website.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution take effect from and after its passage the public welfare of the City requiring it.

Passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Lambert, Mayor

Attest:

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Eddie Phillips, Interim City Manager

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John R. Anderson, City Attorney

11-142