

## Clifton Council meetings should be online

At the last council meeting, Councilman Bill Gibson suggested the Council meetings (as well as the planning and zoning board meetings) be put on the Clifton city website so that anyone at anytime can view these meetings. Bravo Councilman Gibson for suggesting this. It is about time we enter the 21st century. Many communities even those much smaller than Clifton have this available on their respective websites. Don't forget we get over \$1 million in franchise fees from Cablevision and Verizon which should be used to support this public access TV station instead of being put into the general fund to be used for other purposes.

The troubling thing is that Gibson's suggestion was not endorsed by some on the council. It was suggested that the cable TV committee has been against this in the past and this is not needed because people can OPRA (Open Public Records Act) copies of each meeting for only 5 cents. I cannot imagine why anyone on the cable TV committee would be against having these meetings placed for viewing directly on the Clifton city website. Transparency in government is a requirement these days - all meetings including the budget meetings should be shown on TV and put on the website.

Additionally, according to Code A470-19 the Clifton CA-TV Committee role is: "advises the governing body regarding planning, developing and scheduling of programs to address the community needs. The committee consists of seven members including one council member plus two alternates with staggered 2-year terms. Meets first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Health Department Conference Room." The key word is advises the governing body. The committee can not make policy decisions - that is a function of the City Council.

Therefore, since this is a policy decision of the Council, I hope Gibson makes a motion at the next City Council meeting to put

all meetings on the Clifton city website. I hope one of the other six council members second this motion and it is unanimously approved by all seven members. The citizens of Clifton deserve and demand transparency in this government.

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