



Resolution

Whereas, for decades, the Open Meetings Act has required that elected officials discuss most business and policy in a public setting, allowing taxpayers and citizens to monitor their deliberations and decisions; and

Whereas, a recent decision by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals struck down a key part of the Open Meetings Act, one of the guiding principles of government “of the people, by the people, and for the people”; and

Whereas, the Williamson County Commissioners Court believes that public deliberations and decisions are essential to open governance and that Texans deserve a government where issues are discussed openly and where public input is not only invited, but accepted as well; and

Whereas, it has been a practice of members of this governmental body to avoid private quorum discussions or deliberations about items under consideration and it is our intention to continue that practice regardless of this court finding; and

Whereas, we, the members of the Williamson County Commissioners Court are committed to abiding by both the letter and the spirit of the Open Meetings Act and that we do not waiver in our commitment to transparency in decision making;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court does hereby recommit us to continuation of open governance, public discussions and deliberations, and open communications in conducting the business of and setting policy for Williamson County; and

Be it further resolved, that we recommit to avoidance of knowingly engaging in one or more of a series of discussions or deliberations among multiple Court Members privately that if taken together would circumvent the spirit of the Open Meetings Act.

Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct 1

Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct 3

Cynthia Long, Commissioner Precinct 2

Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct 4