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2010 JAN 27 AM 9:08

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DORCHESTER COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 477

**RESOLUTION OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND ADOPTING
RULES FOR OPEN MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the County Council desires to develop guidelines for public attendance, disruptive conduct and recording, photographing and broadcasting of open sessions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland that the following Rules for Open Meetings be hereby adopted:

RULES FOR OPEN MEETINGS

1.01. Public Attendance.

(a) At any open session of the County Council (the "Council"), the general public is invited to attend and observe.

(b) Except in instances when the Council expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, no member of the public attending an open session may participate in the open session.

1.02. Disruptive Conduct.

(a) A person attending an open session of the Council may not engage in any conduct, including visual demonstrations such as the waving of placards, signs, or banners, which disrupts the session or that interferes with the right of members of the public to attend and observe the session.

(b) (1) The presiding officer may order any person who persists in conduct prohibited by subsection (a) of this section or who violates any other regulation concerning the conduct of the open session to be removed from the session and may request police assistance to restore order.

(2) The presiding officer may recess the session while order is restored.

1.03. Recording, Photographing, and Broadcasting of Open Sessions.

(a) A member of the public, including any representative of the news media, may record discussions of the Council at an open session by means of a tape recorder or any other recording device if:

(1) The device does not create an excessive noise that disturbs members of the Council or other persons attending the session; and

(2) The Council is notified of the use of such equipment prior to its use.

(b) A member of the public, including any representative of the news media, may photograph or videotape the proceedings of the Council at an open session by means of any type of camera if the camera:

(1) Is operated without excessively bright artificial light that disturbs members of the Council or other persons attending the session;