

Sponsored by: Councilwoman Mason

Seconded by: Councilman Occhipinti

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 11-17, 2012 AS
"SUNSHINE WEEK" IN THE CITY OF HOBOKEN AND URGING THE ADMINISTRATION'S
PARTICIPATION IN MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is an annual national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and the freedom of information; and,

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week was founded in 2005 and is designed to coincide with the anniversary of the birth of the father of the United States Constitution, James Madison, who wrote that the "consent of the governed" requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives," and,

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is a non-partisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and every group in between, and its participants include print, broadcast, online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know; and,

WHEREAS, public oversight is the ultimate safeguard of democracy and policies preserving access to information are essential to our national well-being; and,

WHEREAS, open government instills public trust and the free flow of information serves to keep the process of government honest and robust; and,

WHEREAS, Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger; and,

WHEREAS, the coverage, commentaries and activities promoting open government during Sunshine Week have led to tangible, meaningful changes to people's lives and the laws that govern them; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Hoboken hereby commits towards putting the principles of Sunshine Week into action during the other 51 weeks of the year; and,

WHEREAS, the Council urges the Administration to immediately take its own tangible steps towards greater openness and transparency, which should start by the posting of all relevant financial and budgetary data on the City's website in a format that can be easily reviewed and searched by the general public, so that the public has a better idea of where its money is going.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hoboken hereby proclaims March 13th through 19th, 2011 as SUNSHINE WEEK in the City of Hoboken and encourages all citizens to educate themselves and become aware of the government processes which affect their lives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges our State and County representatives to adopt the principles of Sunshine Week in their own work on behalf of the public; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be delivered to the Mayor of Hoboken and immediately posted on the City's website at least through the completion of Sunshine Week, and certified copies also transmitted to the Governor of New Jersey, our 33rd District State Legislators, the Hudson County Executive and the Clerk to the Hudson County Board of Freeholders.

Dated:

Approved as to form:

Corporation Counsel