

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW
JERSEY, SUPPORTING MORRIS COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
RESOLUTION #33 TO AMEND THE CURRENT OPRA LAWS**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Records Act (NJSA 47:1A-1 et seq.) was adopted to assure the public's access to sufficient information to enable it to understand and evaluate the actions of public bodies by making accessible for inspection or copying all government records; and,

WHEREAS, since the adoption of OPRA, there has been an escalating series of requests by private sector firms from all over the nation for voluminous public records, already freely accessible to the general public through government websites, with the intent of selling said information to the general public for a profit; and,

WHEREAS, said information is already freely available to the public on government websites; and,

WHEREAS, this information freely obtained for resale to the public involves a treble extra cost to the general public, one upon its creation by government employees, second upon extraction, copying and, frequently, conversion to specific formats by government employees, and thirdly by sale to the same public which has already paid twice for this information; and,

WHEREAS, this constitutes additional substantial costs to the tax paying public solely to benefit a private entity; and,

WHEREAS, in the new renaissance of fiscal responsibility, unnecessary expenses by government should strictly be curtained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the current Open Public Records Law be amended to preserve its original intent and reduce expenses to the public by providing that in situations where the requested documents are already available to the public on a downloadable government website, regardless of format, a referral of the requestor to the said website shall fully comply with the OPRA obligation of the governmental unit, with no need to convert the data contained therein to any other format.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the NJ State Senate and the Speak of the NJ State Assembly, and all our local representatives, urging adoption of such legislation and to the Honorable Governor of the Sate of NJ, Chris Christie, urging him to sign and execute the same upon its adoption.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Council Meeting held on April 19, 2011.



Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk