

## **Collective Bargaining Transparency Policy Resolution**

- WHEREAS, Open transparent accountable government is the best way to conduct public business; AND
- WHEREAS, The people's right to know in matters of public interest is necessary to foster an informed and engaged citizenry, which is the cornerstone of democracy; AND
- WHEREAS, The Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30.010) was passed by citizen initiative in 1972 that states:
- “The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.” AND
- WHEREAS, The OPMA does not prohibit governments from making these negotiations open to the public,
- WHEREAS, Collective Bargaining Agreements are among the most expensive contracts negotiated by Clark County; AND
- WHEREAS, Both taxpayers and employees deserve to know how they are being represented during collective bargaining negotiations; AND
- WHEREAS, The impression of secret deal-making will be eliminated by making collective bargaining negotiations open to the public; AND
- WHEREAS, An open transparent process promotes a broader understanding, which is key to mutually healthy relationships; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, It shall be the policy of Clark County from this day forward to encourage, advocate for, and to call upon the negotiating representatives to negotiate in good faith, the goal of conducting collective bargaining contract negotiations in meetings that are open for public observation that are reasonably noticed providing that the freedom of the bargaining representatives to meet separately and privately to discuss negotiating tactics, goals, and methods shall not be abridged.