

March 14, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-213

**RESOLUTION BY INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISORS AFFIRMING ACCOUNTABILITY
AND OPEN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COUNTY BOARD AND THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, Racine County citizens have a right to know how tax dollars are spent, and

WHEREAS, elected supervisors have the right and responsibility to scrutinize how those dollars are spent, and determine and authorize public policy issues, and

WHEREAS, the County Executive exercises control over all administrative and management functions of county government that are not vested by law in other elected officers, boards or commissions, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a long and proud history of open government, open records, and open meetings, and

WHEREAS, the county government's ability to function effectively requires the legislative branch and executive branch to be free to exercise their independent authority, and

WHEREAS, limitations on the ability of one branch of government to communicate openly to another flies in the face of our democratic principles and is counterproductive to the best interests of Racine County, and

WHEREAS, open government, separation of powers and freedom of speech are basic democratic values that must be encouraged through the spirit of cooperation, and

WHEREAS, government employees' ability to report waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption is contingent upon their ability to talk to elected officials without fear of reprisal, and

WHEREAS, any perceived gag order against public employees will have a chilling effect on open government, separation of powers, free speech, and basic democratic values, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that, the Racine County Board declares its unconditional commitment to open communication between the Legislative and Executive Branch, and asks the County Executive to allow Racine County Employees to speak with elected officials on matters that concern them.

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Respectfully submitted,

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6 1st Reading _____

INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISORS

7
8 2nd Reading _____

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10 BOARD ACTION

Diane M. Lange

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12 For _____

Donnie Snow

13 Against _____

14 Absent _____

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16 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Gaynell Dyess

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18 Prepared by:
19 Corporation Counsel

Kenneth Lumpkin

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22 _____
Q.A. Shakoor, II

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Daniel F. Sharkozy

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