

## PUBLIC NOTICES AND THE PEOPLES' RIGHT TO KNOW

Why are Public Notices printed in the weekly and daily newspapers throughout the state and nation? The answer to that question is based on two fundamental principles:

--First, in a Democracy the Public has an absolute right to know the actions of its government.

-- Second, a Democracy is a system of checks and balances in which it is inappropriate to rely on government to be the exclusive printer, repository and gatekeeper of information.

Government has a duty to make information accessible to the entire community in a place where the Public seeks and expects to find community news. Independent publication of Public Notices is essential to maintain the trust of the people.

A newspaper is a historical record that cannot be altered, is absolutely secure and provides information essential to an informed citizenry. Newspapers, therefore, are the best and only way of ensuring an informed Public and of helping to guarantee that the government conducts its business openly.

That cannot be accomplished via the airwaves, in free publications, by posting notices on bulletin boards or through any other means.

Public Notices are published by various divisions of government in an effort to keep you- -the Public - - informed. Read them so you can keep track of what your public officials are doing.