New Business #15

COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Commissioner Allen McCarty
Meeting Date:	Thursday, February 27, 2014	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of Commissioner Allen McCarty's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2014-11 acknowledging American English as the Official Language of Fayette County.

Background/History/Details:

See Attached Resolution.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of Commissioner Allen McCarty's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2014-11 acknowledging American English as the Official Language of Fayette County.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

County of Fayette;
State of Georgia

RESOLUTION 2014-11

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AMERICAN ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF FAYETTE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Fayette County is a recognized governmental entity, chartered by the State of Georgia, within the boundaries of the United States; and

WHEREAS, As a result of British colonization, English became the predominate language in the United States dating back to the 17th century; and

WHEREAS, The English language in the United States evolved into what is now called *"American English,"* influenced by the languages of West Africa, the Native American population, German, Irish, Spanish, and other languages of successive waves of immigrants to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of world's native speakers of English live in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American English is the common language used by the federal government and is considered the de facto language of the United States due to its widespread use; and

WHEREAS, American English has been given official status by 30 of our 50 state governments and is, under federal law, the official language of United States courts in Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Even with our deep appreciation of other nations and other cultures, our use of a common language, American English, removes barriers of misunderstanding and helps to unify the people of our county, state and nation, enhancing the full economic and civic participation of all citizens;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County does hereby formally recognize American English as the official language of Fayette County, Georgia, encouraging our citizens to aid those non-English speaking persons residing within our boundaries to become fluent in American English while observing the Native American Languages Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Voting Rights Act and all other laws protecting the rights of individuals.

So resolved this 27th day of February 2014 by the

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

_____
Steve Brown, Chairman

Attest:

_____
Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk