



Important to know Sunshine Laws

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Our federal and state constitutions, along with Louisiana's Sunshine Laws, help protect the public's right of access to meetings of public bodies and to public records. But it's not a given that public bodies will always voluntarily open their doors.

Over the years, this newspaper has endeavored to bring attention to violations of the Sunshine Laws when occasions have occurred, and we believe this has helped to educate the public as well as public officials about the importance of transparency in government.

The Public Affairs Research Council in conjunction with the Louisiana Press Association has published a "Citizen's Rights Card" that explains the state's open meetings and public records laws. We urge PAR and the LPA to continue the practice of making this information available to the public.

Every public official, government worker and citizen should be well-versed in these rights.