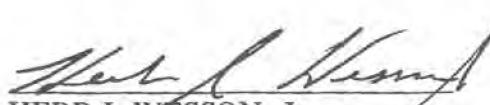


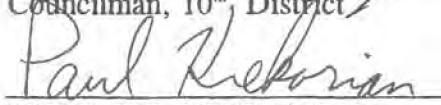
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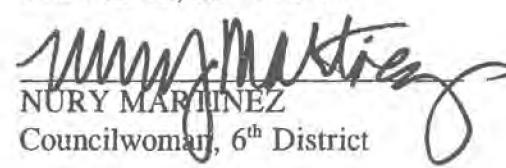
I MOVE, pursuant to Rule 77, that the Council adopt the attached changes to the Rules of the Los Angeles City Council.

PRESENTED BY:


HERB J. WESSON, Jr.

Councilman, 10th District

for 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilman, 12th District


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



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SEP 28 2016

ORIGINAL

2016 Draft Revised Council Rules

*7. Public Comment

General Public Comment. During each regular meeting, the Council shall provide a member of the public the opportunity to address the Council on any issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council. This shall be referred to as "General Public Comment," which generally shall be taken up at or near the beginning of each regular meeting. Unlike most governing bodies which meet once a week or less often, the Council has regular meetings three times each week which afford members of the public frequent opportunity to address the Council. Therefore, each speaker shall be limited to one minute of general public comment each regular meeting. The Council shall not discuss or take action relative to any general public comment unless authorized by Section 54954.2(b) of the Government Code. The Council has determined that a cumulative total of ten minutes is a reasonable minimum amount of time for the General Public Comment segment of each regular meeting.

Agenda Item Public Comment. The Council shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the Council on each agenda item before or during Council's consideration of the item, unless the opportunity for public comment on the item previously was provided by a Council Committee and the item has not changed substantially since that Committee's consideration of the item. A member of the public wishing to speak on only one agenda item that is eligible for public comment shall be given an opportunity to speak for up to one minute when that item is considered by Council, or, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, before consideration of the item.

A member of the public wishing to speak on more than one agenda item at a single meeting shall combine and present his or her comments addressing the agenda items at or near the beginning of the meeting during a segment called "Multiple Agenda Item Comment." A member of the public speaking on more than one agenda item shall be allowed to speak for up to one minute per item up to a total of three minutes per meeting. This will be the only opportunity to speak, other than during General Public Comment, for those members of the public who have submitted speaker cards on more than one agenda item. The Council has determined that a cumulative total of 20 minutes is a reasonable minimum amount of time for the Multiple Agenda Item segment of each regular meeting. On each meeting agenda, the Clerk shall designate any agenda items that are linked by a common specific issue. The Presiding Officer may allow members of the public who submit speaker cards on linked agenda items to make their public comment when the items are considered by Council.

8. Public Hearings

Public hearing items scheduled for regular meetings are afforded special notice for a specific Council meeting date and are intended to receive separate public input on a specific matter. Interested persons (for example applicants, appellants and property owners) shall be given reasonable opportunity to present oral arguments for or against any proposed action. However, no person may present evidence not relevant to the matter which is the subject of the hearing. The Presiding Officer may exercise his or her discretion, subject to reversal by a majority of the Council pursuant to Rule 15, in conducting the public comment period, including, but not limited to: re-ordering the order of business as set forth in Rule 22; determining an equitable amount of time that each member of the public may speak; granting or denying speakers additional time to speak individually or collectively.

9. Not used.
10. Not used.
11. To facilitate the orderly process of public comment and to assist the Council and its Committees in conducting business as efficiently as possible, members of the public wishing to address the Council or a Committee shall hand a speaker card, which includes the speaker's name or other identifying designation, to the Sergeant-at-Arms prior to an agenda item being called. Failure to submit an intelligible speaker card prior to an item being called may preclude a member of the public from speaking during that particular public comment period. An electronic automated system to submit a request to speak may be implemented instead of a member of the public handing a speaker card to the Sergeant-at-Arms. When the Presiding Officer calls a speaker's name, the speaker promptly shall approach the podium in the center aisle of Council Chamber or Board of Public Works hearing room, or the table provided in Committee. Failure to approach the podium or table promptly may preclude a member of the public from speaking during the subject public comment period. Members of the public shall speak only from the podium or table. Speakers are requested to refrain from yelling into the microphone, as doing so presents difficulties for designated translators to accurately translate the speaker's comment. Each speaker promptly shall conclude all comments when his or her time to speak has expired. Speakers are not allowed to cede their time to other speakers. The Presiding Officer may exercise discretion in curtailing the duration of all speakers' comments based upon factors such as the length of the agenda, the number of public comment speaker cards submitted, the need for the Council or Committee to conclude its business as expeditiously as is practicable, and whether the Council or Committee is in danger of losing a quorum. The Presiding Officer may rule that a speaker is impeding the orderly conduct of the meeting if the comment is not germane to the agenda item under consideration, and the speaker may forfeit his or her remaining time on that item.
12. During a meeting of the Council or Committee, there is the need for the Council or Committee to carry out the public business expeditiously in order to ensure that the public has an opportunity to be heard and that the Council or Committee has an opportunity for its deliberative process. While any meeting of the Council or Committee is in session, the following rules shall be observed:
 - A. A member of the public addressing the Council or Committee shall only do so from the podium or designated table and all comments shall be addressed to the Council or Committee as a whole or to the Presiding Officer, and not to any single Council or Committee member, City staff or member of the audience. A member of the public addressing the Council or Committee shall not engage in any conduct which disrupts the orderly conduct of any Council or Committee meeting.
 - B. No person in the audience at a Council or Committee meeting shall engage in conduct that disrupts the orderly conduct of any Council or Committee meeting, including, but not limited to, the utterance of loud, threatening or abusive language, whistling, clapping, stamping of feet, repeated waiving of arms or other disruptive acts.
 - C. All persons attending a Council or Committee meeting shall obey any lawful order or direction of the Presiding Officer or Sergeant-at-Arms.
 - D. Members of the audience and speakers shall not wear or display signs, placards, banners, hats, costumes or similar items at any time in the Council Chamber or Committee room that obstruct

the view of other audience members. In no event shall signs, placards, banners, props or similar items be larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches, be illuminated or be attached to any pole, stick or other device.

E. No person shall interrupt Council or Committee members or the Clerk during a Council or Committee meeting.

F. No person, other than members of the news media and City staff, shall be admitted into the Council or Committee business area of the Council Chamber or Committee room (separated by a rope or other means from the aisles and public seating area), except upon the request of a Council or Committee member and consent of the Presiding Officer.

G. No person shall stand or sit within eight feet of either side of the entrance doors to the Council Chambers or a Committee meeting room. No person shall stand or sit in the center aisle of the Council Chambers or a Committee meeting room without the permission of the Presiding Officer or Sergeant-at-Arms. Persons in the seating area of Council Chambers or a Committee meeting room shall remain seated and refrain from standing in the seating area unless entering or exiting the seating area or unless having received permission of the Presiding Officer or Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Presiding Officer of the Council or Committee, with the assistance of the Sergeant-at-Arms, shall be responsible for maintaining the order of meetings. The Rules shall be enforced as follows:

The Presiding Officer has the authority to issue a warning to a person violating the Rules. If the person continues to violate the Rules and disrupt the meeting, the Presiding Officer may order that person to leave the meeting. If the person does not timely leave the meeting, the Presiding Officer may order the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove the person from the meeting.

Any person removed from a meeting shall be excluded from further attendance at that meeting, unless the decision of the Presiding Officer is overruled by a majority vote of the Council or Committee. The exclusion from the meeting shall be enforced by the Sergeant-at-Arms upon being so directed by the Presiding Officer. These enforcement provisions are in addition to the authority held by the Sergeant-at-Arms to maintain order pursuant to Rule 80 and pursuant to his or her lawful authority as a peace officer.

Any person failing to leave Council Chambers or a Committee meeting room after being ordered to do so by the Presiding Officer and who willfully resists, delays or obstructs removal by the Sergeant-at-Arms, may be subject to arrest for violation of the Penal Code or Los Angeles Municipal Code.

22. The agenda shall reflect, and the business of regular meetings of the Council shall be transacted, as far as practicable, in the following order:

- a. Roll Call.
- b. Approval of Minutes.
- c. Commendatory Resolutions.
- d. Multiple Agenda Item Comment.
- e. General Public Comment (public testimony on non-agenda items within the jurisdiction of Council).
- f. Council hearings required by law.
- g. Items for which required public hearings have been held.

- h. Items for which required public hearings have not been held.
 - i. Items for which future hearing dates must be set.
 - j. Items called Special.
 - k. Motions for posting and referral.
 - l. Councilmembers' request for excuse from attendance at Council meetings.
 - m. Closed Session (can be heard early in the meeting).
 - n. Adjourning motions and Council adjournment.
62. Each Committee shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on each agenda item before or during the Committee's consideration of the item consistent with Rule 7. A member of the public wishing to speak on only one item that is eligible for public comment shall be given an opportunity to speak on that item for up to one minute when or before that item is considered by the Committee. Similar to Rule 7, a member of the public wishing to speak on more than one agenda item at a single Committee meeting shall combine and present his or her comments addressing the agenda items during the segment at or near the beginning of the Committee meeting during a "Multiple Agenda Item Comment" segment. A member of the public speaking on more than one agenda item shall be allowed to speak for up to one minute per item up to a total of two minutes per meeting. This will be the only opportunity to speak, other than during General Public Comment, for those members of the public who have submitted speaker cards on more than one Committee agenda item. The Council has determined that a cumulative total of eight minutes is a reasonable minimum amount of time for the Multiple Agenda Item segment of each regular Committee meeting. On each Committee meeting agenda, the Clerk shall designate any agenda items that are linked by a common specific issue. The Presiding Officer may allow members of the public who submit speaker cards on linked agenda items to make their public comment when the items are considered by the Committee.
63. During each Committee regular meeting, the Committee shall provide a member of the public the opportunity to address the Committee on non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee consistent with Rule 7. This shall be referred to as "General Public Comment," which generally shall be taken up during the beginning segment (General Public Comment) of each regular meeting. Each speaker shall be limited to one minute of general public comment per meeting. The Committee shall not discuss or take action relative to any general public comment unless authorized by Section 54954.2(b) of the Government Code. The Council has determined that a cumulative total of eight minutes is a reasonable minimum amount of time for the General Public Comment segment of each regular Committee meeting. If the Committee does not have a quorum of Committee members present, an official Committee meeting shall not proceed. However, in the absence of a quorum and therefore outside the context of an official Committee meeting, the Committee Chair, at his or her discretion, may hear from members of the public who came to attend the Committee meeting. If the Committee Chair hears from members of the public when there is no quorum, the rules pertaining to public comment with respect to a Brown Act meeting do not apply. If a quorum of Committee members is later established, the Committee shall convene into its official Committee meeting and general public comment and public comment on agenda items shall be allowed even if members of the public were heard by the Committee Chair during the time no quorum was established.