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Comments 9.30.2016 REIGN Agenda No. 5-CF 16-1104-Amend City Council Rules

Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>

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The First Amendment is critical to the citizens of this country, yet you ignore that valuable right. In this state, we have the Brown Act which allows the public the right to know and the ability to comment before governmental decisions are made.

The Fifth Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment is critical to the citizens of this country for due process, yet you ignore that valuable right.

According to the Attorney General's guidance, Section 54954.3 affords:

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Public may comment on agenda items before or during consideration by legislative body. Time must be set aside for public to comment on any other matters under the body's jurisdiction.

We do not see the limitations you impose on time or bodies. Obviously, you think you do not need the public to articulate their concerns before you make a decision as one minute or three minutes is ridiculously low. A cumulative 10 minutes or 20 minutes for all public speakers is also relatively small since this city is one of the nation's largest cities.

Frequency of meetings does not negate the public's right to speak.

Any presentation of "evidence" is not allowed. What is your definition of the term "evidence"? Is the term just a substitute disallowing speech? It appears that you wish to control the clothing of attendees.

According to the Attorney General's guidance, Section 54953.5 and 54953.6, mentions "disruption" accordingly:

TAPING OR BROADCASTING:

Meetings may be broadcast, audio-recorded or video-recorded so long as the activity does not constitute a disruption of the proceeding.

We see no other definitions of your terms.

It is time you address the reality of public participation and your role to facilitate the participation of citizens. Rarely, can a citizen address their own councilmember directly anymore.

As we have studied and observed the management of this City, you can easily use the citizen input and guidance instead of reliance on the special interests.

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