



City Council Agenda Bill

20259

Bill Number

Subject: Guidelines For Public Comment Period

Summary Statement: City Council has the ability to regulate public comment with reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions that are viewpoint neutral. Recent court decisions suggest that City Council's guidelines for public comment should be reviewed to ensure consistency with updated law in this area. Attached is a draft proposal that includes minor revisions to the guidelines for public comment.

Previous Council Action: Adoption of guidelines for public comment

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Attachments: Draft Revisions to Guidelines For Public Comment

Meeting Activity	Meeting Date	Staff Recommendation	Presented By	Time
Committee Briefing Council Vote Requested	06-Jan-2014	Vote to Approve	Peter Ruffatto, City Attorney	5 Min.

Council Committee:

Agenda Bill Contact:

Peter Ruffatto

Reviewed By	Initials	Date
Legal	<i>PMR</i>	12-23-13
Mayor	<i>KL/BA</i>	12/23/13

Committee Actions:

Council Action:

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment period is provided at the discretion of the City Council

NOTE: The Council President has discretion to enforce these guidelines for the orderly and civil conduct of City Council meetings

- Each speaker is allowed **three minutes**, unless time is extended by Council President
- Meeting attendees cannot “donate” their speaking time to another person unless prior permission is obtained
- Speakers are not permitted to comment on topics that come up later as Public Hearing item
- All remarks should be addressed to the Council as a whole
- Speakers shall refrain from comment or behavior that involves involving:
 - a. Causing a disruption with ~~N~~name-calling or personal attacks
 - b. Causing a disruption with ~~O~~bscene, indecent, or libelous remarks
 - c. Advertising or promoting a private enterprise
 - d. Promoting the sale of products or services
 - e. Promoting any contest or lottery
 - f. Promoting candidates for public office or upcoming ballot measures
- City Council reserves the right to restrict a person’s opportunity to address the meeting
- A violation of these guidelines may cause a speaker to be asked to leave the meeting