

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 7, 2014

TO

Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Dwaine R. Caraway (Chair) Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Adam Medrano, Rick Callahan, Carolyn R. Davis, Lee M. Kleinman

SUBJECT

Proposed Amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure Section 6.3 (f) Open Microphone

During the January 22, 2014 Council Agenda meeting, addendum item #9, A resolution amending paragraph (f), "Open Microphone," of Subsection 6.3, "Citizen Speakers," of section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure, was deferred.

On Monday February 10, 2014, the Quality of Life & Environment Committee will discuss and give direction on proposed amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure Section 6.3 (f) Open Microphone. Attached is the January 22, 2014 addendum item #9 agenda information sheet.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of The City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney
Judge Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and City Council

ADDENDUM ITEM # 9

KEY FOCUS AREA: Efficient, Effective and Economical Government

AGENDA DATE: January 22, 2014

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

CMO: Warren M.S. Ernst, 670-3491

MAPSCO: N/A

SUBJECT

A resolution amending Paragraph (f), "Open Microphone," of Subsection 6.3, "Citizen Speakers," of Section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure to specify that any individual may register to speak during the open microphone period of city council meeting once every 30 days - Financing: No cost consideration to the City

BACKGROUND

Paragraph (f), "Open Microphone," of Subsection 6.3, "Citizen Speakers," of Section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure does not specify the frequency at which individuals may register to speak during the open microphone period. This amendment specifies that individuals may register to speak once within any 30-day period. The purpose of this amendment is to allow as many different citizens as possible to speak during the open microphone period.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)

City Council was briefed in closed session on January 8, 2014.

FISCAL INFORMATION

No cost consideration to the City.

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WHEREAS, Paragraph (f), "Open Microphone," of Subsection 6.3, "Citizen Speakers," of Section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure does not specify the frequency at which individuals may register to speak during the open microphone period; and,

WHEREAS, the Dallas City Council wishes to allow as many different citizens as possible to speak during the open microphone period; and,

WHEREAS, the Dallas City Council wishes to amend its rules of procedure to specify that individuals may register to speak once within any 30-day period; **Now, Therefore,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

Section 1. That Paragraph (f), "Open Microphone," of Subsection 6.3, "Citizen Speakers," of Section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure is amended to read as follows:

(f) **Open Microphone.** The city council will provide an opportunity for citizens to present concerns or address issues that are not matters for consideration listed on a posted meeting agenda during an "open microphone" period at city council meetings, subject to the following rules:

(1) Five persons may speak on any matter, including an agenda item, during an open microphone period at the beginning of each city council meeting. These first five speakers will be called in the order in which they registered to speak with the city secretary. Whenever a person fails to speak when his name is called, the name of the next speaker registered for the initial open microphone period will be called, until either five persons have spoken or all of the names have been called. An open microphone period will also be provided after the city council has concluded its agenda, at which time all speakers not heard earlier in the meeting may speak. For purposes of enforcing all provisions of Subsection 6.3 governing citizen speakers, a person who signs up to speak during the open microphone period at the beginning of a city council meeting, but who fails to speak when called upon, will be deemed to have spoken at the meeting.

(2) Each speaker may speak only once, and the length of time a person will be allowed to speak during the open microphone period is three minutes. If a large number of speakers register for the open microphone period, however, the mayor may, with the concurrence of a majority of the city council, impose more restrictive time limits in order to allow the maximum number of persons to speak.

(3) The order in which speakers will be called will be determined by the mayor~~[, except that persons who have not spoken at a city council meeting in the past 30 days will be called first].~~

(4) No person may register to speak during an open microphone period more than once within any 30-day period.

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Section 2. That the City Secretary is directed to adopt procedures to implement this amendment.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.