

DRAFT MOTION: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) respectfully asks the office of Council District 4 (Raman) to consider the following guidelines with regard to City Council proceedings, with an emphasis on public comment period(s). In addition, we ask that Councilmember Raman present a motion to Los Angeles City Council for consideration including the following parameters and/or similar language with the purpose of ensuring that City Councilmembers have adequate and ample opportunity to be present and actively listening during public comment period; and that Councilmembers give public comment the same reverence, attention, and consideration as they would any portion of proceedings.

Whereas the purpose of The Los Angeles City Council is to serve the best interest of their constituents, stakeholders, and the public at large; taking into consideration the fact that Council Members and their staff are gainfully employed and compensated through taxpayer funding, it is imperative that council take immediate action to ensure adequate time, resources, and diligence are applied in allowing public comment during Council meetings.

We ask that The Los Angeles City Council take into consideration the following recommendations:

1. Amend Council Rule *Chapter II. section 7 regarding time minimums for public comment on agenda and non-agenda items: remove language involving time minimums, add language that requires council to allow any and all members of the public who wish to speak adequate and equitable time to do so.
2. Limit time spent during regularly scheduled meetings on demonstrations and/or presentations that aren't directly related to action items in said meeting (e.g. presentation of awards, staff and member recognition, holiday acknowledgements, etc.) to a cumulative total of fifteen minutes in a single meeting.
3. Confirm Council Rules in **Chapter IV sections 25-29 regarding quorum, affirm that they apply to all portions of Council Meetings including and especially public comment on agenda and non-agenda items. Request that the Council President enforce quorum at all times, including and especially during public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items.
4. Implement and allow a "call-in"/remote option for public comment during all public meetings including committee meetings, special meetings, and public hearings.
5. Allow the public to comment on all agenda items outside of the time designated for their comment on non-agenda items during regularly scheduled City Council Meetings, regardless of whether public comment was heard during committee, public hearing, etc. [i.e. members of the public should be entitled to use the entirety of their time during general public comment on items outside of the active meeting's agenda.]
6. Add a provision in Council Rules that prohibits a council member from voting on any item for which they were not present during the entirety of public comment.
7. Apply stringent threshold requirements to closed-session meetings and require that council give the public adequate justification for each closed-session meeting convened

*CHAPTER II 7

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.

****CHAPTER IV 25-29**

25. Ten members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is present and may compel the attendance of the absentees. Except as otherwise required by the Charter or other law, or by these rules where not inconsistent therewith, action by the Council shall be taken by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Council.

26. Whenever a member questions the presence of a quorum, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll and announce the result. There shall be no debate. Every member present must respond when his or her name is called.

27. No member shall be considered present unless the member is within the Council Chamber.

28. No member shall leave a Council meeting without permission from the Presiding Officer of the meeting. Once permission has been granted, and upon direction by the Presiding Officer, the City Clerk shall remove said member's name from Council's computerized record-keeping system.

29. Upon a call of the Council, if supported by a majority of the members present, whether quorum or not, the Presiding Officer shall have the power to send the Sergeant-at-Arms with a written order to bring the absent Councilmember forthwith before the Council.