

The purpose of the Los Angeles City Council is to assist, convey and execute the best interests of any stakeholder and the public at large. Current standards and operating procedures regarding public comment period at City Council meetings convey a sense of contempt and indignance toward the very people Councilmembers swear an oath to serve.

It is imperative that City Council take immediate action to ensure adequate time, resources, and diligence are applied in admitting public comment during Council, Committee, and all other types of meetings and hearings within the city's jurisdiction.

We, The Congress of Neighborhoods (2025), insist that The Los Angeles City Council implement the following rules and guidelines:

1. Delineate the time granted to designated Neighborhood Council Board Members for addressing City Council on agenda items separate from the time granted to the public for comment on agenda and non agenda items. Comment period for Neighborhood Council designees shall be held before public comment period. Public comment period shall commence after all Neighborhood Council designees have been heard.
2. Amend Council Rule \*Chapter II. section 7 regarding time allocated to hearing public comment; increase the minimum amount of time allocated to hearing public comment on agenda and non agenda items to a cumulative total of 150 minutes (2.5 hours), or until the speaker list is exhausted, whichever occurs first.
3. Amend Council Rule \*Chapter II. section 7 regarding agenda item comment; striking the language "*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.*" All agenda items shall be considered eligible for public comment during the allocated agenda item comment period (up to 3 minutes total per speaker) in regularly scheduled City Council Meetings, regardless of whether public comment was heard during committee, public hearing, etc. Council shall not vote on any items until public comment period has concluded.

4. Reinstate and maintain remote/telephonic public comment option for all public meetings and hearings. During public comment period, Council shall alternate between in-person and remote speakers to ensure equity and accessibility among members of the public wishing to speak.
5. 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; excluding adjourning motions.
6. 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 period(s).
7. Delineate the Council Chamber perimeter as to quorum and to be present.
8. Establish rules of decorum that require a standard of attention due to speakers during public comment period: Require City Council members present to be in or near their designated seats, and bar them from engaging in conversation with each other, staff members, and/or guests while members of the public are addressing City Council.

Lastly to request the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance from the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and in consultation with the City Attorney, to report on a draft and annual costs associated with amending the Rules of the Los Angeles City Council, Charter or other law as stated above within 60 days.

## \*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.