

COUNCIL RULES FOR PUBLIC SPEAKERS

(adopted by Ordinance 87-1023, passed June 24, 1999)
(amended by Ordinance 87-1176, passed July 8, 1987)
(amended by Ordinance 87-1195, passed July 8, 1987)
(amended by Ordinance 88-389, passed March 16, 1988)
(amended by Ordinance 88-548, passed March 16, 1988)
(amended by Ordinance 88-620, passed April 20, 1988)
(amended by Ordinance 90-832, passed July 3, 1990)
(amended by Ordinance 90-1111, passed September 12, 1990)
(amended by Ordinance 94-1385, passed December 21, 1994)

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 1:30 P.M. EACH TUESDAY

Appearances by members of the public shall be scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. each Tuesday. City Council takes an automatic recess from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Any citizen of the City shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at all regular special meetings of the City Council in regard to any and all matters to be considered at such meetings that are germane and relevant to any subject matter of City affairs or business which is within the scope of the authority and legislative functions of the City Council.

Any Council Member shall have the privilege of raising a point of order as to whether the subject matter to be heard and considered as presented by a citizen is germane and relevant to any subject matter of City affairs or business that is to be considered by City Council.

REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE CITY COUNCIL MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO 1:30 P.M. ON TUESDAYS. RESERVATIONS ARE SCHEDULED WITH THE CITY SECRETARY IN:

Room P-101
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby

OR BY CALLING
247-1840

Written request should
be sent to:
City Secretary
Post Office Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251

Requests to appear shall be made to the office of the City Secretary, and may be made in person, by mail or by telephone, provided that the request is received before the scheduled time of commencement of the City Council meeting session at which public appearances will be heard. Each speaker shall provide his or her name, street address, mailing address (if different), telephone number, and a brief description (not to exceed ten words) of the intended subject matter of the citizen's remarks. Speakers who have not been listed to appear at any of the preceding four regular City Council meetings shall also state whether they wish to limit their remarks to one, two or three minutes.

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**POSTERS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, APPLAUSE, BOOING, CONTAINERS
AT SPEAKERS' PODIUM**

- (a) No person shall brandish, wave or display or cause to be brandished, waved displayed any sign, placard, poster or banner within the City Council Chambers in such a manner as to impede the use of the aisles. Interfere with the use of the seating area. Obstruct the view of another or in any other manner disturb or interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting at any time during which the City Council is conducting a meeting in the City Council Chambers.
- (b) No person making an appearance before the City Council shall have in his or her possession while at the public speakers' podium any paper bag, plastic bag, handbag, brief case, purse, satchel, box, envelope, tape recorder or other container of any sort. A shelf shall be provided near the speakers' podium at which handbags, briefcases and other small items may be placed during an appearance.
- (c) No person within public aisles or seating area of the City Council Chambers shall applaud, boo, clap, or otherwise audibly express approval or disapproval of the acting being taken at the City Council table or the public speakers' podium in a loud and raucous manner calculated to disturb the meeting, except for public recognition initiated by City Council.
- (d) Violation of this rule shall not be a municipal offense; however, any police officer or other person assigned to provide security for the council meeting shall advise any person who fails to comply with this rule of his or her noncompliance. Any person who, after having been advised of his or her noncompliance, continues to violate subsection (a) or (c) of this rule shall be ejected by the security personnel from the Council Chamber for the noncompliance with this rule. Any person who, after being advised of his or her noncompliance continues to violate subsection (b) of this rule shall be removed by the security personnel from the public speakers' podium. The operation of this rule shall not be construed to preclude any person from prosecution for violation of any applicable penal law.