

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 21, 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 24, 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.

At the request of Council Member Vonciel Jones Hill, we have included her proposed amendment for your consideration.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '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

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CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 21, 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 Amendment for Open Microphone Speaker Rules: Item 68, February 26, 2014 Council Agenda

I have attached my proposed amendment on the subject item for consideration by the Quality of Life & Environment Committee at its February 24, 2014 meeting.

The resolution for this item was deferred from the January 22, 2014 agenda meeting and is scheduled for City Council's consideration at the February 26, 2014 agenda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vonciel Jones Hill'.

Vonciel Jones Hill  
Councilmember, District 3

## Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of The City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Judge Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
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Frank Librio, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and City Council

## POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO OPEN MICROPHONE SPEAKER RULES

### DRAFT

(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) The maximum time allowed for speakers during each open microphone period is 30 minutes, to be divided equally among the speakers. Each speaker may speak only once, and the maximum 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.

**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

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**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.

January 22, 2014

**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.

January 22, 2014

**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.