



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee

### Agenda - Revised

Thursday, April 28, 2022

9:30 AM

### Special Meeting

Remote Meeting. Call 253-215-8782; Meeting ID: 586 416 9164; or Seattle Channel online.

Debora Juarez, Chair  
Alex Pedersen, Vice-Chair  
Teresa Mosqueda, Member  
Kshama Sawant, Member  
Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8805; [Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov](mailto:Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov)

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal**  
**Governments Committee**  
**Agenda - Revised**  
**April 28, 2022 - 9:30 AM**  
**Special Meeting**

**Meeting Location:**

Remote Meeting. Call 253-215-8782; Meeting ID: 586 416 9164; or Seattle Channel online.

**Committee Website:**

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/governance-native-communities-and-tribal-govts>

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This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

*Pursuant to Washington State Governor's Proclamation No. 20-28.15 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 8402, this public meeting will be held remotely. Meeting participation is limited to access by the telephone number provided on the meeting agenda, and the meeting is accessible via telephone and Seattle Channel online.*

Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the 9:30 a.m. Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee Special Meeting at

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>.

Online registration to speak at the Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee Special Meeting will begin two hours before the 9:30 a.m. meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

Submit written comments to Councilmember Juarez at

[Debra.Juarez@seattle.gov](mailto:Debra.Juarez@seattle.gov)

Sign-up to provide Public Comment at the meeting at

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>

Watch live streaming video of the meeting at

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/watch-council-live>

Listen to the meeting by calling the Council Chamber Listen Line at 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 586 416 9164

One Tap Mobile No. US: +12532158782,,5864169164#

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Public Comment**

**D. Items of Business**

1. [Appt 02170](#) **Appointment of Gael D. Tarleton as Director of Office of Intergovernmental Relations.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)  
[Confirmation Questions & Answers](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (25 minutes)

**Presenter:** Monisha Harrell, Senior Deputy Mayor

2. [Res 32051](#) **A RESOLUTION revising certain General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; amending Rules III and V in Attachment 1 of Resolution 32029.**

Attachments: [Att 1 – General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council April 2022](#)  
[Att 1 Appx A - List of Non-Suspendible Rules](#)

Supporting Documents: [Summary and Fiscal Note](#)  
[SUM Att A - Ex. of resolutions per proposed change to Rule V Central Staff Memo \(4/28/22\)](#)

**Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote** (20 minutes)

**Presenter:** Aly Pennucci, Council Central Staff

**E. Adjournment**



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Appt 02170, **Version:** 1

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Appointment of Gael D. Tarleton as Director of Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.

# City of Seattle



## **Director Office of Intergovernmental Relations**

**Confirmation Packet  
March 24, 2022**

**Gael D. Tarleton**



March 24, 2022

The Honorable Debora Juarez  
President, Seattle City Council  
Seattle City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Juarez:

It is my pleasure to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Gael D. Tarleton as Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

**A. Gael Tarleton**

This section contains Ms. Tarleton appointment and oath of office forms, her resume, and the press release announcing her appointment.

**B. Background Check**

This section contains the report on Ms. Tarleton's background check.

The City of Seattle's success is tied to the success of our region, our tribal neighbors, our state, our country, and to countries around the world. That success is tied to fostering strong relationships with our partners, and Gael Tarleton is *the* person to build and strengthen those ties as Seattle's Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR).

Gael Tarleton brings experience of both breadth and depth, including in elected public service on the Seattle Port Commission and eight years as a State Representative of the 36th Legislative District. In the time she has served as Interim Director of OIR, she's evidenced the merits of her experience navigating both government systems and relationships with state and regional policymakers. She also brings extensive experience working with foreign governments and international organizations, which bolsters her work supporting my and Councilmembers' connections to our consular community and international sister cities. As I drafted my Executive Order on Ukraine, she and the OIR's International Affairs Director's insight were invaluable.

Foundational to my forwarding Gael's nomination for your consideration was hearing that she has the trust of City Councilmembers to represent your interests as much as she does my own. She prioritizes making herself and her team accessible to each of you, and I can point to several bills in this most recent legislative session that were improved due to her and her team's advocacy. Further, as the City seeks additional fiscal resources to support a myriad of needs, we all only benefit from Gael's experience in federal government, at the Port of Seattle, and as former Chair of the Finance Committee in the State House of Representatives. Gael brings a thoughtful ear, a diplomatic mind, and a commitment to advocating for the best interest of the people of Seattle. At the same time, she has a firm commitment to a more equitable, inclusive, and respectful workplace.

The Honorable Debora Juarez  
Gael Tarleton Confirmation Letter  
March 24, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

I nominated Gael Tarleton as Interim Director last December. In the time since, my office consulted with stakeholders regarding her performance, including Councilmembers, Council Legislative Aides, staff at the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, state legislators, county councilmembers, and tribal representatives. The resounding conclusion from stakeholders was that Gael Tarleton has the resolve, temperament, and diplomatic skills needed to represent our City with distinction. Review of her impressive work this last legislative session and the strong support shown by the affected stakeholders is the process that informed my decision to advance Ms. Tarleton for your consideration today.

I trust that after reviewing Gael's application materials, meeting with her, and following your thoughtful Governance, Native Communities & Tribal Governments Committee review, you will find that she is well situated to serve as permanent Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, Senior Deputy Mayor Monisha Harrell would welcome hearing from you. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bruce A. Harrell  
Mayor of Seattle



# SECTION

## A



**City of Seattle**

Mayor Bruce Harrell

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March 17, 2022

Gael D. Tarleton  
Seattle, WA  
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Gael,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations at an annual salary of \$150,002.

Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings. Once confirmed by the City Council, you serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Director and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Office will thrive under your leadership.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce A. Harrell".

Bruce A. Harrell  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



# City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>Gael D. Tarleton</i>		
<b>City Department Name:</b> <i>Office of Intergovernmental Relations</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Director</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Appointment</b> <i>OR</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reappointment</b>		<b>Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Specify appointing authority</i>		<b>Term of Office:</b> <i>City Council Confirmation to Mayor's Discretion</i>
<b>Legislated Authority:</b> <i>Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.14.410</i>		
<b>Background:</b> Gael Tarleton brings experience of both breadth and depth, including in elected public service on the Seattle Port Commission and eight years as a State Representative of the 36th Legislative District. In the time she has served as Interim Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, she's evidenced the merits of her experience navigating both government systems and relationships with state and regional policymakers. She also brings extensive experience working with foreign governments and international organizations, which bolsters her work supporting the City's connections to our consular community and international sister cities.		
<b>Date of Appointment:</b> <i>3/24/2022</i>	<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b> 	<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Bruce A. Harrell</i> <i>Mayor</i>



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OATH OF OFFICE

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State of Washington

County of King

I, Gael D. Tarleton, swear or affirm that I possess all of the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Charter and Ordinances of The City of Seattle; and that I will faithfully conduct myself as the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

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Gael D. Tarleton

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

[Seal]

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Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

**Gael D. Tarleton  
Interim Director  
Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
City of Seattle**



**PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT**

**City of Seattle, January 2022-present**

*Interim Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations.* Leadership of the office chartered in 1979 to support government-to-government relations for the Mayor's Office and the City Council. Prioritized hiring a diverse team to fill key vacancies for OIR Deputy Director, Tribal Relations Director, Federal Affairs Director, and Senior Government Affairs Program Manager; supporting the Mayor's Office and Council legislative agenda for the state legislative session from January 10<sup>th</sup>-March 10<sup>th</sup>; and developing a federal funding strategy to focus City staff on pursuing specific opportunities under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

**University of Washington, Seattle, 2004-2012 (Full-time 2004-2007; Half-Time 2008-2012)**

*Research Adviser, Pacific Rim Visualization and Analytics Center (PARVAC), Department of Human-Centered Design and Engineering, College of Engineering, 2007-2012.* Adviser to PARVAC Director and his customers at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, WA) regarding emergency planning, preparedness, resilience, and recovery from man-made and natural disasters, with special emphasis on terrorist threats, cyber attacks, and catastrophic earthquakes.

*Strategic Adviser, Institute for National Security Education and Research (INSER), Information School, 2006-2012.* Adviser to INSER Program Manager and his customers at the U.S. National Intelligence Council.

*Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, College of Arts and Sciences, 2004-2006.* Hired by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences during UW's capital campaign. Led \$3 million initiative to endow the Herbert J. Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies in honor of UW's distinguished History Professor, Herb Ellison. Helped faculty in various UW departments win an additional \$5 million in gifts and grants.

**Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Washington, DC, 1981-1990**

During my 9-year career at DIA, I rose through the ranks as a Soviet strategic nuclear forces intelligence analyst, promoted to a GS-15 Senior Intelligence Officer in 1989.

- DIA's leading expert on Soviet strategic nuclear forces and operations,
- Routinely briefed senior defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, intelligence, and Congressional officials and provided direct intelligence support to U.S. strategic commands and allies.
- From 1986 to 1990, I chaired interagency intelligence committees and co-authored several national intelligence estimates assessing Soviet strategic nuclear plans and programs.
- Recipient of Director of Central Intelligence's National Intelligence Medal of Achievement.

## ELECTED OFFICE

### **WA State Representative, 36<sup>th</sup> District (NW Seattle neighborhoods), 2013-2020**

*Finance Chair, 2019-2020*

*Appropriations Committee, 2019-2020*

*Majority Floor Leader, 2016-2019*

*Technology and Economic Development Vice-Chair, 2014-2018*

*Transportation Committee, 2013-2018*

*Higher Education Committee, 2013-2018*

*Tenant protection laws.* Authored WA state's first-ever Safe Keys Act, requiring landlords to secure master keys to protect the safety and security of tenants living in apartments around the state.

*Preparing students for jobs in the trades.* Worked with a bipartisan team of legislators to restore \$440 million in funding career and technical education in Grades 8-12 state-wide, to support preparing students for jobs in the manufacturing, maritime, construction, and other trades.

*Devised legislative strategy to win progressive revenue victories.* As House Finance Chair and member of House-Senate Budget Leadership Team, developed strategy to pass four progressive revenue packages in 2019 session: state's first-ever, 4-tiered progressive real estate excise tax to fund affordable housing and expanded property tax deduction for seniors and disabled veterans; 4-tiered progressive B&O tax to fully fund student scholarships for college and apprenticeships; prime-sponsored first-ever windfall profits tax on financial institutions with \$1 billion in annual profits to support working families and childcare providers; and progressive taxes on oil and gas companies to expand funding for Puget Sound clean-up and protections against oil and hazardous waste spills.

*Lead negotiator on 100% clean electricity law.* As House Finance Chair and House prime sponsor, led negotiations among legislative colleagues in the House and Senate and coordinated with executive branch officials, 63 public and investor-owned utilities, environmental advocates, and labor leaders to pass one of the nation's strongest 100-percent clean electricity laws in 2019.

*Seattle Center Free Health Clinic for medical/dental/vision/mental health services.* Prime sponsored the legislation in partnership with Seattle Center to allow volunteer health professionals from within the state and around the country to volunteer their services at the annual free health clinic at Key Arena.

*Creating the Northwest Seaport Alliance.* Co-authored the bipartisan legislation to create the Northwest Seaport Alliance, which created the first-ever Port of Seattle-Port of Tacoma joint alliance governed by a joint body of elected Commissioners.

### **Port of Seattle Commissioner, elected King County-wide, 2008-2013**

*Transparency and fiscal responsibility in public works projects.* Commission President, Vice President, and Commission Audit Committee Chair. Co-authored the Port Commission's charter document to establish the Commission's first-ever internal Audit Committee. Drafted with port employees a new Port Procurement Policy to govern the solicitation, award, and management of Port public works projects.

*Political and fiscal leadership through Great Recession.* First elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, I was only the third woman to serve as a Port of Seattle Commissioner in the port's 100+ year history. The Great Recession defined my tenure as Commissioner. Through the recession we kept

people working, creating 7,000 jobs on Port public works projects. I resigned my Commission in January 2013 to serve in the WA State House.

*Ensuring healthy communities in port neighborhoods.* Worked with Seattle City Council to get port trucks off neighborhood streets in South Seattle. Led the Port's Clean Air initiative to remove thousands of tons of diesel particulates from the Puget Sound airshed, a U.S.-Canadian joint effort among the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT**

*Senior manager with significant staff recruitment and retention experience, proposal writer, international business diplomacy and operations, program development and management of multi-million dollar federal contracts, expert on federal contracting and procurement laws and regulations.*

### **Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Vice President Corporate Development and International Business Director, Seattle, WA, and McLean, VA, 1990-2002**

*Led U.S. Government into Russia post-Cold War.* The largest private employee-owned technology company in the nation until its initial public offering in 2007, SAIC was a Fortune 300 company that grew from 9,000 to 43,000 employees during my 12 years. I held numerous leadership roles, serving in line management and chairing corporate initiatives. Launched SAIC's business in Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe in 1992 and served as Business Manager for Russian and Ukrainian operations under SAIC's wholly owned subsidiary, SAIC Global Technology (GT).

*Created and led ground-breaking U.S.-Russian technology cooperation.* The U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Treaties and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, together with the Department of the Army, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Environmental Protection Agency, were SAIC GT's steady customers. I served as Program Manager for the 5-year, \$11 million Russian Monitoring Technologies Program, which pioneered U.S.-Russian science and technology programs to produce nuclear, chemical, and biological monitoring devices for U.S.-Russian treaty monitoring regimes.

*Worked with U.S. intelligence officials on post-9/11 information-sharing challenges.* Manager for SAIC's National Intelligence Operation based in McLean, VA. Grew the business from \$7 million to \$10 million business with more than 70 direct employees. Successfully established a new program for Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency to build an integrated intelligence collection management system across the U.S. national intelligence community under a 3-year, \$18M contract.

### **Eurasia Policy Director, National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), Seattle, 2002-2003**

*Diversified funding for small 501c3 non-profit.* Led proposal and contract negotiations to secure a signature \$600,000 grant from the U.S. national intelligence community for our country's top academic experts to examine post-9/11 socio-economic and political cultures in Central and South Asian countries.

## **EDUCATION**

**M.A. Government and National Security Studies**, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1983). Part-time graduate student while working full-time at U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

**B.S. cum laude, School of Foreign Service**, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1981). Concentration in Russian Studies and International Business Diplomacy.



**Seattle**

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

#### Contact Information

Jamie Housen

Phone: 206-798-5002

Email: [jamie.housen@seattle.gov](mailto:jamie.housen@seattle.gov)



**City of Seattle**

Office of the Mayor-Elect

## Mayor-Elect Harrell Makes Additional City Leadership Announcements, Including Kendee Yamaguchi as Deputy Mayor and Gael Tarleton as Head of Intergovernmental Relations

*Harrell announces hires for Deputy Mayor of External Affairs, Chief of Staff, Legal Counsel, and Gun Violence Prevention Liaison, along with changes in department leadership*

**Seattle** – Today, Seattle Mayor-elect Bruce Harrell announced the latest round of hires joining his administration’s cabinet as he prepares to enter office next week and continues to build out his executive department and cabinet.

“Over the past several months, I have heard – in transition meetings and on the street, with city leaders and with everyday neighbors – calls for a representative and responsive City government. My executive team and cabinet are being



built with that priority front of mind,” **said Mayor-elect Harrell**. “I’m excited by the team of leaders we’ve convened to effectively move Seattle forward. In my administration, you’ll see our staff truly engage with the community – visible and accessible to all, empowered to take action, and committed to seeking the solutions that drive positive change.”

Drawing on the input and stated priorities of community leaders, Harrell has hired Kendee Yamaguchi to serve as deputy mayor of external affairs. Yamaguchi, a former City employee who currently serves as executive director for Snohomish County, will be tasked with fostering strong and collaborative relationships between the City of Seattle and community groups, non-profit organizations, and local businesses.

Yamaguchi will help support the City’s COVID response, direct the mayor-elect’s external relations team, and coordinate mayoral priorities around cultural initiatives and events, including in the arts, film, music, sports, job creation and nightlife sectors.

Harrell will appoint Gael Tarleton as interim director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Tarleton will bring her experience as a former state legislator and port commissioner to facilitate collaboration across all levels of government, advocate for federal and state investments, and ensure the City of Seattle is a trusted and engaged partner in regional efforts.

“Gael Tarleton’s proven leadership will be a huge asset for Seattle,” **said Harrell**. “Her unique ability to build and sustain productive relationships will greatly enhance Seattle’s ability to increase its resources and develop favorable legislative policy.”

Also joining the Harrell Administration will be Matt Chan, who will serve as special advisor for public engagement, advising the mayor on the City’s strategic use of digital technology to enhance public engagement, strengthen transparency, and address the digital divide. Chan brings over 45 years of award-winning success in the television industry and has served on the KCTS Board of Directors. His work landed him a spot as one of the few people of color on the Hollywood Reporter’s ‘Top 50 Reality Power Producers’ list.

“I am pleased when people like Matt Chan answer the call of public service to help Seattle reach a new level of meaningful public engagement where all voices are heard,” **said Harrell**. “This is a critical part of our vision.”

Harrell will also appoint Derrick Wheeler-Smith, currently King County’s director of Zero Youth Detention, to serve as interim director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR). Wheeler-Smith will focus on implementing the mayor-elect’s equity and justice priorities, including the Race and Social Justice

Initiative, expanding housing and workforce opportunities, and delivering youth support and mentorship.

Current SOCR Director Mariko Lockhart will rejoin the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) as a deputy director, where she and Director Dwane Chappelle will continue to drive major equity initiatives and deliver high-quality support to Seattle students. **Harrell added**, “The combination of Ms. Lockhart’s previous leadership in education coupled with Mr. Wheeler-Smith’s leadership in equity work will produce outstanding results in our major equity initiatives with education and mentorship being primary components.”

Harrell also announced the hiring of Jennifer Samuels as chief of staff and Jeremy Racca as legal counsel. Samuels will be responsible for overseeing the workings of the Mayor’s Office – from directing office staff to addressing constituent needs and improving office efficiencies. Racca will provide analysis and support on policy and legal issues facing the City, as well as interface with the City Attorney’s Office and City departments.

Finally, executing on his campaign pledge to elevate the pressing issue of gun violence to the top of his administration, Harrell is announcing the hire of DeVitta Briscoe, who will serve as gun violence prevention liaison. Briscoe is a respected community leader and strategist who will focus on community-driven solutions to address and prevent gun violence, coordinating with local nonprofits, the Regional Peacekeeper Collective, law enforcement, and impacted community members.

“There are few people and few leaders more committed to gun violence prevention than Ms. Briscoe,” **said Harrell**.

Learn more about Mayor-elect Harrell, his team, and his transition structure at [seattle.gov/mayor-elect](https://seattle.gov/mayor-elect).

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**Deputy Mayor of External Relations Kendee Yamaguchi**

Kendee Yamaguchi brings to the City of Seattle more than two decades of service at all levels of government, having held leadership roles in the White House and Washington State's Department of Commerce, Office of the Attorney General and Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. In the private sector, she worked both as an attorney and television executive for a leading international cable network. Most recently, as Executive Director for Snohomish County, she led the early COVID-19 economic response strategy where the first case occurred in the United States. She earned a

bachelor's degree from American University and law degree from Seattle University. Yamaguchi has served on the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Committee, and local and national boards.



**Interim Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations Gael Tarleton**

Gael Tarleton represented Washington's 36th legislative district in Olympia for eight years before retiring last year, including posts as House Finance Committee Chairwoman and House Majority Floor Leader. Previously, Tarleton was elected twice to the Port of Seattle Commission. Before elected office, Tarleton spent a career in the national security field: strategic adviser at the University of Washington;

Vice President for international business at a Fortune 300 science and technology company; and senior defense intelligence analyst at the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. Tarleton holds an M.A. in Government and National Security and B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Bob, have lived in Ballard for nearly 30 years.



**Special Advisor for Public Engagement Matt Chan**

Matt Chan has spent 45 years in the television industry, winning awards and driving storytelling success by focusing on audience. Chan has worked in every facet of the industry, from operating television stations to running national television series. His creative work led the Hollywood Reporter to include him as one of the very few people of color on their “Top 50 Reality Power Producers” list. His focus on refining the science and art of storytelling

has come in the form of personal projects, teaching at the University of Washington’s Communication Leadership program, and consulting on network television programs. His passion is to give back to the community, training and educating new generations of citizen journalists and storytellers for the new world of media.



**Interim Director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights Derrick Wheeler-Smith**

Derrick Wheeler-Smith currently serves as the Director of Zero Youth Detention for King County Public Health, overseeing the implementation of the Zero Youth Detention Road Map and the development of a regional public safety plan to address gun violence. He played an integral role in mapping initial steps for King County’s declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis and was a co-

organizer of the “We Want to Live” march in South Seattle, bringing together thousands of community voices in response to the murder of George Floyd. Wheeler-Smith began work as a youth outreach worker and coach at Franklin High School, has served as a teacher and counselor at Seattle Urban Academy, architect of the Federal Way School District’s first Racial Equity Policy, and National Director of Youth Engagement for World Vision. Wheeler-Smith believes the work of anti-racism is the work of becoming a better human toward your fellow humans, and recognizes marrying his wife Stephenie as his life’s greatest decision and the raising of his children as its most important work.



### **Chief of Staff Jennifer Samuels**

Jennifer Samuels brings a diverse background in government and law office management. Previously serving in Mayor-elect Harrell's office during his tenure at the Seattle City Council from 2008 through 2019, Samuels' primary responsibilities included managing the Council President's committee work, full council briefings, human resources, constituent services, and community priorities. Samuels also served at the Washington State Supreme Court as lead judicial aide to State Supreme Court Justice Robert F. Utter. In Olympia, Samuels served as a liaison between the judicial, legislative and executive branches.



### **Legal Counsel Jeremy Racca**

Jeremy Racca served as a legislative aide for then Councilmember Harrell for seven years, where he staffed civil rights and public safety matters, and is particularly proud to have worked on 'Ban the Box' legislation, police accountability policies, and digital privacy protections. Racca joins the administration from the global law firm Clyde and Co. in New York City. His practice focused on domestic and international litigation and arbitrations involving insurance, energy, trade and commodities, infrastructure, and transportation. Racca also volunteers for organizations that provide support to people with Crohn's Disease.



### **Gun Violence Prevention Liaison DeVitta Briscoe**

Drawing on her own experience as a survivor, as well as a mother who lost her son Donald McCaney to gun violence in 2010 and as a sister who lost her brother Che Taylor to police violence, DeVitta Briscoe has worked toward intervention and frontline support for youth of color to reduce gun violence, ensure police accountability, and empower grieving families. Briscoe launched the Black Women's Coalition to End Violence to address root causes of urban gun violence and center Black women's leadership, and is trained to facilitate Restorative Justice-based healing circles, and the Alive & Free™ violence prevention methodology. Briscoe is a graduate of Evergreen State College.

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## **SECTION**

### **B**



# City of Seattle

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## Seattle Department of Human Resources

Kimberly Loving, Interim Director

**March 16, 2022**

**TO:** Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office

**FROM:** Annie Nguyen, Seattle Department of Human Resources

**SUBJECT:** Background check for Gael Tarleton

The Seattle Department of Human Resources has received a copy of Gael Tarleton background check provided by Global Screening Solutions. There were no findings that would impact their employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

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Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 5500, PO Box 34028, Seattle, WA 98124-4028  
(206) 684-7999 • TTY:7-1-1 Fax: (206) 684-4157 • Employment Website: [www.seattle.gov/jobs](http://www.seattle.gov/jobs)

An equal employment opportunity employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.





**1) You've had deep experience in federal, state, and regional politics. How do you think that experience and background is going to shape your approach to the way the Office of Intergovernmental Relations approaches its work?**

I approach this work by remembering one golden rule: protect every relationship because our paths may cross again. Where do people and policies converge? In politics – and that's why relationships make all the difference. The Office of Intergovernmental Relations is the place where we build, sustain, and protect relationships across all levels of government – local, regional, state, federal, tribal, and international – to help our elected officials and public agencies advance public policy that serves the best interests of the people.

My mom used to tell her seven kids “do the best you can, where you live, every day.” That's the approach I have taken throughout my career, both before I entered the political arena and for the past 15 years. Policy and legislative debates may take years but result in strong public policies that protect the best interests of our communities. Differences of view and conflicting ideas are at the heart of every policy debate. These are the times when trusted relationships matter most of all. Policy breakthroughs happen when people find a way to debate differences of view and identify a path forward together. I love building teams of people who work together, whether we're pursuing a legislative agenda, hosting an international delegation with other regional partners, or helping communities in crisis. I encourage my team to build constructive relationships with each other, City colleagues, and City partners.

- As senior defense intelligence analyst at the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency between 1981-1990, I led an interagency intelligence task force of 10 intelligence agencies to develop the strategy to monitor and verify Soviet compliance with the first-ever U.S.-Soviet treaty to destroy strategic nuclear ballistic missiles and warheads. On rotational assignment to the National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs, I helped draft and coordinate two national intelligence estimates on Soviet strategic nuclear operations, which earned the support of 17 intelligence agency directors.
- Subsequently, as a federal government contractor for 12 years, I competed for and won more than \$100 million in federal contracts to implement U.S. cooperative threat reduction programs in Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe.
- During my 5 years on the Seattle Port Commission, the Port partnered with the State to provide \$300 million from the Port to help finance the removal of the Viaduct; bought the Eastside Rail Corridor from BNSF, bringing the corridor into public ownership by selling segments to Eastside King County cities to convert

Gael D. Tarleton  
Interim Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
Responses to Council Questions  
April 26, 2022

- “Rails to Trails”; and joined with the City, King County, State, and federal partners to finance the construction of the new South Park Bridge.
- As a State legislator representing the 36<sup>th</sup> legislative district, I served as House Majority Floor Leader for 3 years, as House Finance Chair, and on the Appropriations, Technology and Economic Development, Higher Education, Transportation, and Rules Committees. In my first year, I prime-sponsored Washington’s Safe Keys Act, which passed with strong bi-partisan support and requires landlords to secure master keys for all apartments to protect tenants in their own homes. I led the negotiations to pass legislation authorizing the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma to form the Northwest Seaport Alliance; led a three-year effort to negotiate and pass the state’s landmark 100% Clean Electricity law, which gained the support of all 63 utilities in our state; and worked with a bipartisan, bicameral team of legislators to secure \$440 million as basic education funding for putting career and technical education courses back into our high schools.
  - As Finance Chair, I coordinated the strategy to secure House and Senate support for creating dedicated revenue sources to fully fund student scholarships. Additionally, I led the effort to pass bipartisan modernization of the state’s Real Estate Excise Tax structure whose revenues are used to fund expanded eligibility for the seniors and disabled veterans’ property tax exemption. I also prime-sponsored legislation, which earned unanimous votes off the House and Senate floors, to confirm the first-ever WA State-Tribal Governments memorandum of agreement regarding revenue sharing among state, local, and tribal governments.

Throughout my long career working in and with every level of government, I’ve learned how to lead people through times of historic change. I was extremely successful at identifying and competing for new federal funding as the Soviet Union collapsed and Congress passed billions of dollars to implement new treaties with Russia. Now I am using this knowledge to help the City compete for historic levels of funding from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. At a time when our region must tackle some of the toughest challenges of our time – acknowledging how systemic racism has left our Black and Brown communities behind, doing all we can to start a new era of equity and inclusion, and tackling climate risks that threaten our future quality of life – I have built an OIR team with exceptional public service experience who both reflect and respect the rich diversity of our City. This team is ready to help our City government be a force for good, to protect the people and this place we love.

**2) Much like many city departments, and places of work across the country, OIR has experienced some transition in the past year. How do you intend to recruit and**

**maintain a diverse workforce? What opportunities for realignment of the department does this present?**

It is so important to acknowledge the incredible challenges all of our City's departments and staff have endured during the past couple of years. OIR is one of the City's smallest departments. Historically, the OIR staff have understood that changes in Administration typically involve staff transitions. But the combination of two years of remote work and a change in Administration were unprecedented. I started the job on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with the state legislative session beginning in one week. Three key positions were vacant, a key staff member was on paternal leave until early February, and another staff member had delayed a planned resignation date that was fast approaching, also in early February.

Today, I am thrilled to report that as of the end of March, OIR is now fully staffed with one of the most diverse teams in its history: women and men of color, first-generation Americans, Native Americans, LGBTQ community, experience on Congressional staffs and state legislative staffs, and federal civil service. I sought people who love the City of Seattle and have a track record of public service. These new hires join a core group of senior government relations professionals who are leaders and mentors.

I see this team rebuilding as an opportunity to break down silos between traditionally isolated portfolios. This OIR team has the depth and breadth of experience working within the City and across all levels of government to provide the City Council, the Mayor, City colleagues, and City partners with the support you need, when you need it.

**3) How do you intend to balance being a member of the Mayor's Cabinet with the vital role of providing unbiased, complete, and timely information to all branches of City government?**

As I have done during my first four months as Interim Director and throughout my career, I will continue to keep communications channels open with everyone. I've told the OIR staff that we have a "no surprises" rule – we share accurate information with each branch of government, even if it's not what people want to hear. I also depend on my team to review my work and each other's work for accuracy and clarity.

Our weekly check-ins with individual Councilmembers throughout the legislative session allowed us to update you on arising issues and helped me understand your individual priorities, which made us more effective in Olympia. In addition, the weekly briefings to the City Council

Gael D. Tarleton  
Interim Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
Responses to Council Questions  
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allowed the Mayor's Office and all City departments to track key policy debates and the status of legislation in real time. I also will continue to share occasional "OIR Highlights" memos with both the Councilmembers and staff and the Mayor's Office, so that there is shared visibility into the OIR portfolios. I look forward to hearing from all of you how OIR can improve our communications with the Council and City staff.

**4) How would you resolve a situation where there was a disagreement between the Executive and Council? How would you approach this situation?**

There's nothing like a legislative session to reveal differences of perspective. Just as I made sure the Councilmembers and the Executive were aware of differences of view emerging with pieces of legislation introduced in this recent session, I also worked with my OIR team to help them characterize the specific nature of the policy differences. The legislative process is designed to understand where there is alignment and where there are differences of view. We have a responsibility to help legislators know when City policymakers are on the same page and where positions may diverge.

The City is an amazingly diverse place, and we should expect that there may be multiple positions on a policy issue. It's important to allow these differences of view to be expressed. OIR continues to honor the right of every elected official to testify in person or submit letters of support or opposition. My team and I work with Councilmembers and Council staff, the Mayor's Office and Executive staff, and City departments to help everyone understand who holds what perspective. Public testimony might reveal differences between the Council and the Executive, but that helps inform the legislative debate and deliberations.



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 32051, **Version:** 1

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**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION revising certain General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; amending Rules III and V in Attachment 1 of Resolution 32029.

WHEREAS, by Resolution 32029, the Seattle City Council adopted "General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council" to govern both its internal management and the procedures available to the public, in conformance with the City Charter and the customary practice of legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Council procedures and rules guide and facilitate Councilmember duties and meeting deliberations as well as provide the public with an understanding of Council functions; and

WHEREAS, periodic alterations to the Council's procedures are appropriate to improve the Council's operations and its interactions with the general public; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

Section 1. Rule III in Attachment 1 of Resolution 32029 is amended as follows:

**III. CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

\* \* \*

**B. Order of Business.**

1. The President shall announce the business of the City Council at its regular meetings, which shall ordinarily be disposed of in the following order:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Presentations

d. ~~((Approval of the Journal))~~ Public Comment

e. Approval of the Introduction and Referral Calendar

f. Approval of Consent Calendar

g. Approval of the Agenda

~~((g. Public Comment~~

~~h. Payment of Bills, Claims, and Salaries Committee Reports (discussion and vote on Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments)~~

i.) h. Committee Reports (discussion and vote on Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments)

i. Items removed from Consent Calendar

j. Adoption of Other Resolutions

k. Other Business

l. Adjournment

2. Upon the passage of each Bill, the President shall announce that the President is signing the Bill, and if so requested by any CM, that Bill shall be read at length so as to ensure its correctness before it shall become enrolled.

\* \* \*

## **E. Consent Calendar**

At the discretion of the President, the agenda for a particular Council meeting may include a consent calendar to allow the Council to act on administrative items or items for which no debate or inquiries are expected. Included on this consent calendar can be matters such as approval of minutes, payment of bills, and Committee Reports (vote on Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments) with a unanimous vote and no abstentions. Upon request by any CM, an item shall be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the regular agenda for a separate vote, according to Rule III.B. Multiple removed items shall be considered in the

same order as they had been presented on the consent calendar.

Section 2. Rule V in Attachment 1 of Resolution 32029 is amended as follows:

## **V. CITY COUNCIL VOTING**

### **A. Voting Required; Disqualification Process.**

1. Every CM in attendance shall vote on all actions before the City Council, except when CMs must disqualify themselves from voting as required by either the City’s Code of Ethics or the Washington State Appearance of Fairness Doctrine. CMs may also disqualify themselves from voting to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, unless a majority of those present vote that there is no conflict. (See Rule V.D.2 Announcing and Recording Votes.)

2. Abstentions are not allowed on actions, other than Resolutions (~~((that, in the sole discretion of the Council President, are not materially related to City government))~~) relating to a policy statement from the City Council on topics that may be of concern to Seattle residents, but the topics involve jurisdictions or matters not under the City’s direct control. Abstentions are not allowed on Resolutions related to the administration of City government or related to City regulatory measures. Any CM wishing to abstain must announce that they are invoking their right to abstain pursuant to Council Rule V.A.2 prior to the final vote on the Resolution. CMs not having abstained or disqualified themselves pursuant to Rule V.A.1 shall vote “Aye” or “No.”

3. All votes shall be recorded by the City Clerk in the Journal of the Proceedings.

### **B. Roll Call Voting.**

A roll call vote shall be taken when voting on final passage of Bills, the consent calendar, and on other business when requested by a CM. A roll call vote is called in alphabetical order of last name, except for the President, whose name is always called last. At each regular Council meeting, the first name on the roll, in a systematic rotation, is moved to the name immediately preceding the President’s name.

\* \* \*

Section 3. The amendments as stated in Sections 1 and 2 of this resolution are incorporated, including

updating the table of contents and formatting, into the “General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council,” attached to this resolution as Attachment 1.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachments:  
Attachment 1 - General Rules and Procedures of the City Council (as amended March 2022)





**City of Seattle**  
**Legislative Department**

# **General Rules and Procedures**

## **of the**

# **Seattle City Council**

**(As adopted by Resolution #####, April ##, 2022)**

**GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES  
OF THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**

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## GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

### I. COUNCIL COMPOSITION, POWERS, AND DUTIES

#### A. Council – General Authority; Annual Report; Legislation Retirement.

1. The City Council shall establish rules for its proceedings.\*
2. As the Legislative branch of City government, the City Council shall establish policy for the City.
3. The City Council has the authority to create and use committees of its members to facilitate its legislative functions; provided that no committee of the Council and no individual member of the Council shall have or exercise executive or administrative power, except as provided in the Charter.†
4. The Council has authority to punish its members and others for disorderly or otherwise contemptuous behavior in its presence, and to expel for such behavior in its presence any members by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of its members, specifying in the order of expulsion the cause thereof.‡
5. The Council shall produce an Annual Legislative Report, as designated by the President. The report shall identify accomplishments of the Council in the preceding year and objectives of the Council for the coming calendar year, in a report format determined by the President.
6. Council Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments in committee or before the City Council for at least one year prior to March 1st of each year shall be considered for retirement.
7. Throughout these Rules, “City Council” is used when referring only to the body that meets at regular meetings as described in Rule II.A and actions taken by that body, regardless of meeting type. “Council” is used when referring to the City Council or any subdivision of it, as the context requires.

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

**B. Members – Abbreviated as CMs; General Duties; Protest of Actions.**

1. Members of the City Council, or Councilmembers, are abbreviated as CMs throughout these Rules.
2. CMs shall
  - a. Uphold the public trust and demonstrate integrity, honesty, and fairness;
  - b. Exercise budget and fiduciary responsibility
  - c. Be responsive to citizens; and
  - d. Disqualify themselves from acting on City business when disqualification is required by the City’s Code of Ethics\*, by common law, or by the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine.  
(See “Council Rules for Quasi-Judicial Proceedings Before the City Council” as adopted by Resolution 31602.)  
(See Rule V.A.1 Voting Required.)
3. Any CM may protest against the action of the City Council upon any question and have the oral objection entered upon the Journal of the Proceedings. If the protesting CM wishes the Journal of the Proceedings to contain a written objection, the objection shall be filed with the Office of the City Clerk within 48 business hours following the action being objected.

**C. President – Appointment; Duties.**

1. Biennially, and also whenever the position of President becomes vacant, the City Council shall elect from its members a President who shall perform the usual functions of a presiding officer.†
2. The President may be removed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all CMs.‡
3. The President shall:
  - a. Preside over City Council meetings.
    - i. Call the City Council to order at the hour appointed for City Council meetings, or at the hour to which the City Council shall have adjourned at the preceding session.
    - ii. Proceed with the order of business if a quorum is in attendance.
  - b. Sign all Bills in authentication of their passage in open session§ and sign all Resolutions in authentication of their adoption.

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\* SMC Chapter 4.16.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

§ Charter, Art. IV, § 11.

- c. Promote efficient operation of the Council, including setting the City Council agenda and expediting parliamentary debate, or if there is no objection from any other CM, expediting the passage of routine motions.
  - d. Preserve order and decorum within the Council Chamber when acting as a presiding officer.
  - e. Assign legislation to committees.
  - f. Monitor committee agendas to ensure issues are appropriate to respective committees, and within the scope or work program of said committee, or as otherwise assigned.
  - g. Act as Mayor in the Mayor's absence from the City or incapacitation.\*
    - i. The President may simultaneously serve as President and act as Mayor; however, when the President, acting as Mayor, is confronted on a particular matter with a conflict of duties and responsibilities so fundamental that the public interest requires it, the President shall act as Mayor only.
    - ii. If, under Charter Art. XIX, § 6.B, the President declines to become Mayor upon a Mayoral vacancy, the Council's duty to select one of its members to become Mayor shall be performed within five days of the President's declination.
  - h. Head the Legislative Department<sup>†</sup>, including providing for the orientation of new CMs.
4. The President may speak to points of order, inquiry, or information in preference to other CMs. The President shall, with respect to a question of order: decide the question (which decision is appealable to the City Council by any CM); or submit the question to CMs to decide by a majority of CMs present and voting.  
(See Rule IV.G Point of Order.)
  5. While speaking upon any question before the City Council, the President shall have the right to turn the Chair over to the President Pro Tem.
  6. The President may create select or other non-standing committees as provided in Rule VII.A.
  7. As provided by Rule VI.B, the President shall not serve as the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.

**D. President Pro Tem – Designation; Duties.**

1. Biennially, the City Council shall designate by Resolution a list of Presidents Pro Tem. The list shall start with the most senior CM other than the President and continue in descending order of seniority, with alphabetical order of last name used to break ties, and the position shall rotate monthly. In the case of a City Council vacancy

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\* Charter, Art. V, § 9.

† Charter, Art. III, § 3.

- and subsequent appointment, the appointee shall fill the position of the departed CM in the rotation.
2. In the absence of the President Pro Tem, the CM designated for the next month shall act as President Pro Tem.
  3. The President Pro Tem shall:<sup>\*</sup>
    - a. Act as President in the case of incapacitation or absence of the President.
    - b. Act as President when the President, acting as Mayor, is confronted with a conflict of duties and responsibilities so fundamental that the public interest requires it.  
(See Rule I.C.3.h President.)

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<sup>\*</sup> Charter, Art. V, § 9.



## II. CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

### A. Regular Meetings – Time; Location; Quorum; Preliminary Agenda.\*

1. The City Council shall meet each Tuesday except as listed below. Regular meetings shall convene at 2 p.m., and the City Clerk shall enter the time of adjournment in the Journal of the Proceedings.
  - a. If a Tuesday is a legal holiday, then the regular meeting shall be held on the next day that is not a legal holiday.
  - b. Regular meetings are not held on the Tuesdays following the last two Mondays in the months of August and December.
  - c. Any regular meeting may be canceled by the President or a majority vote of CMs.
2. Regular meetings are held at Seattle City Hall in the Council Chamber. The City Council may meet at another location in the event of an emergency or disaster.†
3. A quorum consists of a majority of all nine CMs except as listed below.‡
  - a. During a declared emergency under Article V, § 2 of the Charter, a quorum shall for all purposes consist of a majority of all CMs who are available to participate in City Council meetings and are capable of performing the duties of the office; and in such a declared emergency for all purposes, the City Council shall consist of a majority of such CMs available to participate in regular City Council meetings.
  - b. Except when Rule II.A.3.a applies, in order to select a person to fill a vacancy on the City Council, a quorum shall consist of a majority of those CMs currently holding office.
4. Less than a quorum of CMs may adjourn from day to day, or until the next regular meeting, and may compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as the City Council prescribes.§(See Rule II.D.3 Attendance.
5. Preliminary agendas of upcoming regular meetings shall list items on which action is expected to be taken and shall be made available to the public. All reasonable effort shall be made to publish the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting.
6. The Council prefers to conduct its business in person when practicable. Recognizing that CMs may not be able to attend every meeting in person due to unavoidable and sometimes unforeseeable circumstances, any CM may at their sole discretion participate and vote by any electronic means (e.g., multi-party telephone or video conferencing) utilized by the Council for such purpose provided that the Office of the

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 3.

§ Charter, Art. IV, § 3.

City Clerk is able to accommodate such participation. A CM shall endeavor to provide the Council President with notice of their intent to participate and vote electronically at least 48 hours whenever possible.

**B. Special Meetings – Calling; Notice; Limitations; Location.**

A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting.

1. The Mayor, the President of the City Council, or any three CMs may call a special meeting.\*
2. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080.
  - a. The only items of business for which final action may be taken at a special meeting are those items listed on the written notice.
  - b. Special meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall unless: a specific alternate location is established by the party calling the meeting, whether the Mayor, the President, or three CMs; and notice as required under RCW 42.30.080 is given.
3. The Council prefers to conduct its business in person when practicable. Recognizing that CMs may not be able to attend every meeting in person due to unavoidable and sometimes unforeseeable circumstances, any CM may at their sole discretion participate and vote by any electronic means (e.g., multi-party telephone or video conferencing) utilized by the Council for such purpose provided that the Office of the City Clerk is able to accommodate such participation. A CM shall endeavor to provide the Council President with notice of their intent to participate and vote electronically at least 48 hours whenever possible.

**C. Emergency Meetings – Calling; CMs’ Electronic Attendance.**

1. Emergency City Council meetings may be called by the Mayor, President, or any two CMs, consistent with the provisions of chapter 42.30 RCW and RCW 42.14.075.†
2. Meeting time, location, and notice requirements do not apply to emergency meetings called for emergency matters as permitted by RCW 42.30.070, RCW 42.30.080, and RCW 42.14.075.
3. Emergency meetings are open to the public unless exempt under chapter 42.30 RCW.
4. If a natural disaster, fire, flood, earthquake, enemy attack, imminent enemy attack, or other catastrophic emergency that renders a CM’s physical attendance at a meeting impracticable, or if approved by a majority of CMs present and voting at an emergency meeting, the CM may participate and vote by any electronic means (e.g.,

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

multi-party telephone or video conferencing) utilized by the Council for such purpose.

5. The Council prefers to conduct its business in person when practicable. Recognizing that CMs may not be able to attend every meeting in person due to unavoidable and sometimes unforeseeable circumstances, any CM may at their sole discretion participate and vote by any electronic means (e.g., multi-party telephone or video conferencing) utilized by the Council for such purpose provided that the Office of the City Clerk is able to accommodate such participation. A CM shall endeavor to provide the Council President with notice of their intent to participate and vote electronically at least 48 hours whenever possible.

**D. Attendance – Requirements; Excuses.**

1. CMs shall attend all regular City Council meetings, unless excused by the City Council.
2. A CM may obtain a leave of absence or be excused from a particular meeting by vote of the City Council before or during the meeting to which the leave of absence or excuse would apply.
3. Three CMs, including the President or President Pro Tem acting in the capacity of the President, or four CMs otherwise, may compel the attendance of absent unexcused CMs at the City Council meeting, and may adjourn from day to day if necessary until a quorum can be convened.\*
4. A CM shall be granted a leave of absence by submitting written notice to the President as soon as practical of a personal situation that would entitle a City employee to family and medical leave, paid parental leave, or paid family care leave under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Sections 4.26.010, 4.27.020, or 4.29.020. The notice shall give a reasonable estimate of dates to which the leave of absence shall apply.
5. No more than four CMs may be excused from any one City Council meeting, except during November budget deliberations, when no more than two CMs may be excused from any one City Council meeting.
6. If the maximum number of CMs has been excused for any one particular meeting, the last CM so excused shall be considered on-call. An on-call CM may make arrangements with any other excused CM to switch on-call status. Any such switch must be communicated with the President and the City Clerk.
7. The City Clerk shall record the attendance and requests for excused absence(s) from City Council meetings in the Journal of the Proceedings.

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 3.

### III. CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

#### A. Legislation – Introduction; Referral; Requirements.

1. Introduction of Legislation.
  - a. All submitted legislation shall be reviewed by the City Clerk before it is sent to the Council President.
  - b. All Council Bills and Resolutions shall include a Summary and Fiscal Note.
  - c. The President shall assign the appropriate committee or City Council to receive the legislation and determines when to send the legislation to the committee chair. If a primary sponsor of legislation requests that the Council President place legislation onto the Council’s Introduction and Referral Calendar without the support of the Chair of the committee with subject matter jurisdiction for doing so, then the Council President will confer with the Chair of the standing or select committee with subject matter jurisdiction prior to placing the legislation on the Introduction and Referral Calendar regardless of whether the legislation in question is routine or time sensitive.
  - d. The committee chair determines whether and when to place the legislation onto the Council’s Introduction and Referral Calendar. Any CM may be the primary sponsor of legislation, but the Council President may choose to include selected legislation on the Council’s Introduction and Referral Calendar as “Executive Requested” or “[Department] Requested Legislation” (i.e., naming the department who generated the legislation) rather than including a CM as sponsor. Prior to introduction by the Council, additional sponsors of the legislation may be added with consent of the primary sponsor, except that sponsors added outside an open session shall not cause the total number of sponsors to meet or exceed a quorum of its assigned committee (or City Council if there is no assigned committee).
  - e. When adoption of the Introduction and Referral Calendar is being considered during each City Council meeting, it may be modified by a majority vote of CMs present and voting. Modifications include amendment to titles, committee referral, sponsorship, and removing or adding legislation.
  - f. After the Introduction and Referral Calendar is adopted, legislation is in the control of the referred committee or City Council.
  - g. Before final passage by the Council, additional sponsors of the legislation may be added in open session with consent of the primary sponsor.
  
2. Relieving a Committee of Legislation.
 

The City Council may relieve a committee of legislation in one of two ways:

  - a. With consent from the current committee chair, the proposed committee chair, and the President, legislation may be re-referred to the proposed committee on the Introduction and Referral Calendar; or

- b. A motion to relieve the committee may be considered at the City Council meeting during consideration of the adoption of the Introduction and Referral Calendar and requires a majority vote of CMs present and voting.
3. A Resolution shall not be adopted at the same meeting at which it is introduced except by passage of at least two-thirds vote of CMs present and voting, except that resolutions pursuant to SMC Chapter 10.02 to terminate civil emergencies require at least two-thirds vote of all CMs.
4. Resolutions not on the City Council Introduction and Referral Calendar or City Council agenda shall not be added for introduction and adoption at the same City Council meeting unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the preceding business day.
5. Council Bills not on the City Council Introduction and Referral Calendar shall not be added to the Introduction and Referral Calendar for introduction at the same City Council meeting such action is requested unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the preceding business day.
6. A Bill shall not be introduced and passed at the same meeting, except for the weekly Bill for payment of bills, salaries, and claims.\*
7. No Bill shall become an Ordinance unless on its final passage at least a majority of all nine CMs vote in its favor.† In some cases, passage requires more than a majority vote.
8. Amendments to Bills and Resolutions shall not be presented at a City Council meeting unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least two hours before the meeting. In cases, including but not limited to, amendments to development regulations subject to the Growth Management Act, a statute may require additional public notice and opportunity for public comment before an amended Bill may be passed.

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 8.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 8.

**B. Order of Business.**

1. The President shall announce the business of the City Council at its regular meetings, which shall ordinarily be disposed of in the following order:
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Presentations
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. Approval of the Introduction and Referral Calendar
  - f. Approval of Consent Calendar
  - g. Approval of the Agenda
  - h. Committee Reports (discussion and vote on Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments)
  - i. Items removed from Consent Calendar
  - j. Adoption of Other Resolutions
  - k. Other Business
  - l. Adjournment
2. Upon the passage of each Bill, the President shall announce that the President is signing the Bill, and if so requested by any CM, that Bill shall be read at length so as to ensure its correctness before it shall become enrolled.\*

**C. Reconsideration of Vetoed Bills.†**

1. The City Council shall reconsider and vote again on the passage of any Bill that is vetoed by the Mayor, in accordance with the Charter.
2. Reconsideration shall occur not less than five days after the Mayor's written objection of the Bill is published, and not more than 30 days after the return of the Bill by the Mayor.
3. Passage of a Bill during reconsideration shall be by two-thirds vote of all the CMs.
4. Any Bill presented to the City Council for reconsideration that does not pass during the first vote of reconsideration shall be deemed finally lost.

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 11.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 12.

**D. Journal of the Proceedings.**

1. The City Clerk shall record into the Journal of the Proceedings of the Seattle City Council the proceedings of the City Council at its regular and special meetings, and recommendations to the City Council by committees.
2. The Journal of the Proceedings shall be presented to the City Council for approval at a regular City Council meeting.
3. The Journal of the Proceedings is a public document.

**E. Consent Calendar**

At the discretion of the President, the agenda for a particular Council meeting may include a consent calendar to allow the Council to act on administrative items or items for which no debate or inquiries are expected. Included on this consent calendar can be matters such as approval of minutes, payment of bills, and Committee Reports (vote on Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments) with a unanimous vote and no abstentions. Upon request by any CM, an item shall be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the regular agenda for a separate vote, according to Rule III.B. Multiple removed items shall be considered in the same order as they had been presented on the consent calendar.

## IV. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

If these General Rules and Procedures are silent on a matter of parliamentary procedure, the 12th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Council in all cases to which it is applicable.

### A. Rules of Debate.

When any CM wishes to speak, the CM shall address the Chair.

1. When recognized, the CM shall, in a courteous manner, confine comments to the question under debate.
2. The CM who sponsors a Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, Appointment, or motion has the privilege of speaking first and last upon it.
3. No CM shall impugn the motives of any other CM, or speak more than twice except for explanation during the consideration of any one question.
4. No CM, having obtained the floor while a debatable motion is immediately pending at a meeting of the Council, shall speak for longer than ten minutes unless all CMs present agree by unanimous consent to extend the limits of debate or two-thirds of CMs present and voting pass a motion to extend the limits of debate.

### B. Consideration of Motions.

1. No motion shall be entertained or debated until duly seconded and announced by the Chair.
2. The motion shall be recorded and, if requested by any CM, it shall be read by the City Clerk before it is debated.
3. Until the Chair states the question, the maker of the motion has the right to modify or withdraw it. If the motion is modified by the maker before the Chair states the question, the CM who seconded the motion may withdraw the second.
4. Motions shall be entertained in the order of precedence outlined in the 12th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.



MOTION TO:	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote?	May be reconsidered?
Adjourn	No	No	Maj	No
Recess	No	Yes	Maj	No
Reconsideration (Rule V.G)	Yes	No	Maj	No
Lay on the Table (Rule IV.J)	No	No	Maj	Yes
Take from the Table (Rule IV.K)	No	No	Maj	No
Call the Question (Rule IV.H)	No	No	2/3	Yes
Postpone to a Certain Time (Rule IV.I)	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
Commit or Refer to a Committee	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
Amend or Substitute	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
Postpone Indefinitely (Rule IV.L)	Yes	No	Maj	Affirmative vote may be reconsidered
All motions must be seconded to be entertained or debated. See Rule IV.B.1.				

**C. Amendment Form.**

1. CMs may offer for consideration amendments to proposed legislation to the body considering that legislation, whether at a City Council, select, or standing committee meeting. An amendment is a pending motion until it is voted on. Amendments to legislation must be written in accordance with City Clerk amendment standards. Motions to amend legislation must be seconded, are debatable, and require a majority vote of CMs present and voting to be adopted. Proposed amendments should take the form of either:
  - a. To insert, or to add language;
  - b. To delete language;
  - c. A combination of a and b having the following forms:

- i. To delete and insert (which applies to words);
  - ii. To substitute; that is, to delete a paragraph or the parts or the entire text of a legislation or main motion, and insert another in its place.
2. Added language shall be underlined and deleted language shall be shown with strikethrough format.
3. To promote efficiency, the Chair may accept consideration of an oral amendment that can be clearly stated in a suitable form. The Chair may also request the oral amendment be reread or presented in writing before the question is stated.

**D. Parliamentary Inquiry.**

A CM may direct a Parliamentary Inquiry to the presiding officer to obtain information on a matter of parliamentary law or the rules of the organization bearing on the business at hand. Inquiries may relate to e.g., making an appropriate motion, raising a proper point of order, or clarifying the parliamentary situation or the effect of a motion.

**E. Recognition by the Chair.**

If two or more CMs seek recognition at the same time, the Chair shall decide the one who shall speak first.

**F. Division of a Question.**

Any CM may call for a division of a question, which shall be divided if it embraces subjects so distinct that, if one is taken away, a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the Council.

**G. Point of Order.**

1. The Chair has the right to decide all points of order, in which case Rules IV.G.2 through IV.G.5. apply. The Chair may instead submit the question on a point of order to CMs to decide by a majority vote of the CMs present and voting.
2. If dissatisfied with the decision of the Chair, any CM may appeal the decision.
3. In all cases of appeal, the question shall be: “Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?”
4. No CM may speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of CMs in attendance.
5. The decision in response to the appeal shall be by a majority vote of the CMs in attendance. In case of a tie vote, the decision of the Chair shall stand.

**H. Call the Question.**

A CM may make a motion to Call the Question (also known as Previous Question) to end debate on an immediate pending motion. This motion requires a two-thirds vote in favor and may be considered at committee meetings.

**I. Postpone to a Certain Time.**

To postpone a question to a certain time, the motion shall state a definite date, meeting, or hour, or until after a certain event.

**J. Lay on the Table.**

A majority of CMs present and voting may decide to temporarily halt consideration of a question immediately and without debate during a meeting. The maker of a motion to Lay on the Table must state the reason for the motion. A motion that has been laid on the table may, in either the current or subsequent meeting, be brought back by a motion to Take from the Table.

**K. Take from the Table.**

Once a question has been laid on the table, it may be taken from the table by a majority vote of CMs present and voting, as soon as the interrupting business has been disposed of or whenever no other question is pending. A motion that has been laid on the table may, in either the current or subsequent meeting, be brought back by a motion to Take from the Table.

**L. Postpone Indefinitely.**

A majority of CMs present and voting may decide not to take a direct vote or position on a main question by disposing of it with a motion to Postpone Indefinitely. The question shall not be brought back again for at least 60 days.

## V. CITY COUNCIL VOTING

### A. Voting Required; Disqualification Process.

1. Every CM in attendance shall vote on all actions before the City Council, except when CMs must disqualify themselves from voting as required by either the City's Code of Ethics\* or the Washington State Appearance of Fairness Doctrine. CMs may also disqualify themselves from voting to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, unless a majority of those present vote that there is no conflict. (See Rule V.D.2 Announcing and Recording Votes.)
2. Abstentions are not allowed on actions, other than Resolutions relating to a policy statement from the City Council on topics that may be of concern to Seattle residents, but the topics involve jurisdictions or matters not under the City's direct control. Abstentions are not allowed on Resolutions related to the administration of City government or related to City regulatory measures. Any CM wishing to abstain must announce that they are invoking their right to abstain pursuant to Council Rule V.A.2 prior to the final vote on the Resolution. CMs not having abstained or disqualified themselves pursuant to Rule V.A.1 shall vote "Aye" or "No."
3. All votes shall be recorded by the City Clerk in the Journal of the Proceedings.†

### B. Roll Call Voting.

A roll call vote shall be taken when voting on final passage of Bills, the consent calendar, and on other business when requested by a CM. A roll call vote is called in alphabetical order of last name, except for the President, whose name is always called last. At each regular Council meeting, the first name on the roll, in a systematic rotation, is moved to the name immediately preceding the President's name.

### C. Voice Vote.

A voice vote may be taken on any matter of business before the City Council, unless a roll call vote has been requested as provided in Rule V.B.

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\* SMC Chapter 4.16.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

**D. Announcing and Recording Votes.**

1. After a roll call vote, the City Clerk shall announce the “ayes” and “nos” in addition to “abstentions” and “disqualifications” for all votes and enter them into the Journal of the Proceedings. The announcement of the result of any vote shall not be postponed.
2. When a CM is in attendance and has been disqualified from voting under Rule I.B.2.d, the City Clerk shall record and announce “in attendance, but disqualified from voting.”  
(See Rule V.A.1 Voting Required.)

**E. Proxy Votes.**

There are no proxy votes.

**F. Tie Vote.**

In the event of a tie vote, a motion does not pass.

**G. Motion to Reconsider.**

1. After the final vote on any motion, Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment, and before the adjournment of that City Council meeting, any CM who voted with the prevailing side may move for reconsideration of the original motion. Seconds to motions for reconsideration may be from either side.
  - a. If the result of the final vote is to pass any motion, Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment, any reconsideration vote must take place before adjournment of that meeting, or else there shall be no reconsideration vote.
  - b. If a Bill is moved for final passage and fails to pass, and a motion to reconsider is made, the motion to reconsider shall not be voted on before the next meeting of the City Council.\*
2. A motion to reconsider takes precedence over every other motion, except a motion to adjourn.
3. Motions to reconsider a vote upon amendments to any pending question shall be made and decided immediately.
4. A motion to amend that does not pass in a committee meeting shall not be reconsidered, but the motion to amend may be offered to the City Council.

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 10.

## VI. STANDING COMMITTEES\*

### A. Formation.

1. Standing committees are formed after the biennial election of a President.
2. Formation of standing committees, i.e., the identification of committees' scopes of work, regular meeting schedules, and Chair and membership assignments, shall be adopted by Resolution.

### B. Membership.

1. A standing committee consists of at least four members and, if the committee has fewer members than the Council has CMs, may include an alternate. A committee has a Chair and may have a Vice-Chair.
2. If the vacancy of a City Council position requires the appointment and/or election of a replacement CM, the replacement CM shall assume the replaced CM's committee duties and responsibilities, unless stated otherwise by Resolution.
3. Only CMs who are designated members of the standing committee (or the alternate if serving as a member) may sponsor amendments before the committee, or vote at its meetings. Voting rights of members include the power to make, second, amend, or vote on all motions, including proposed amendments.
  - a. If invited by the Chair or Vice-Chair, a CM other than the designated members (or the alternate if serving as a member) may participate as a non-committee member without voting rights in a standing committee meeting.
  - b. Participation of non-committee members is limited to taking part in debate, upon recognition by the Chair, and the authorship of amendments, to be submitted in accordance with Rule IV.C.1.
4. The quorum requirement for standing committee meetings is three CMs unless a greater number is stated by Resolution.
5. The President shall not serve as the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.

### C. Meetings.

1. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall unless a specific alternate location is established by the Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the regular members of the committee, and appropriate public notice and access are provided.

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

2. The Council sets regular meeting dates and times by Resolution. The committee Chair may cancel a meeting at any time.
3. A regularly scheduled meeting will be moved to the following Friday if:
  - a. The regular schedule places that meeting on a legal holiday; or
  - b. A legal holiday moves a City Council meeting to a day on which that meeting is regularly scheduled.
4. Regular meetings are not held in weeks when the Council does not hold a regular City Council or Council Briefing meeting under Rule II.A.1.b or IX.B.2.
5. Meetings shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as City Council meetings, with the agenda limited to committee business and only rules and procedures applicable to committees in effect.
6. Preliminary agendas for upcoming regular meetings shall list items for which discussion, amendments, and/or recommendation is expected. Items where only amendments will be considered shall be listed as possible amendments, and items where amendments and/or a final recommendation is expected shall be listed as possible vote for proper notification, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.
7. All reasonable effort shall be made to publish the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting.
8. All reasonable effort shall be made to make materials that are to be presented in a regular meeting available online at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
9. In accordance with 42.30.035 RCW, meeting minutes shall be promptly produced after each meeting and made available for public review.

**D. Special Meetings.**

A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting.

1. Special meetings may be scheduled by the committee Chair.
2. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080. All reasonable effort shall be made to publish the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting.
3. The only items of business for which final action may be taken at a special meeting are those items listed on the written notice.

**E. Attendance – Requirements; Excused Absences.**

1. It is the duty of each member of a committee to attend its meetings.
2. Committee Member Notification Duties.
  - a. For a committee with an alternate, if, at least three business days before a committee meeting, a committee member can notify the Chair and alternate of an expected absence from the entire meeting, the committee member shall do so, after which the alternate shall inform the Chair of the alternate's availability. Otherwise, the committee member shall notify the Chair, the Chair shall contact the alternate, and the alternate shall inform the Chair of the alternate's availability, all as soon as practical. Once these conditions are met, the alternate assumes the rights of the absent committee member for the actual duration of the absence.
  - b. For a committee without an alternate, if, at least three business days before a committee meeting, a committee member can notify the Chair of an expected absence from the entire meeting, the committee member shall do so. Otherwise, the committee member shall notify the Chair as soon as practical.
3. A committee member may be excused with the consent of the Chair.

**F. Duties of the Chair.**

The committee Chair shall:

1. Provide at each meeting a public comment period pursuant to Rule XI.C.3.a.
2. Act as presiding officer and call the meetings to order at the appointed times.
3. State the amount of time allowed for speakers and announce instructions to the speakers at the start of each meeting. The Chair may allow additional time for the submission of written comment from the public.
4. Announce CMs in attendance at the call to order and as they join the meeting.
5. Recognize CMs and, in accordance with these General Rules and Procedures, others who wish to speak.
6. Set the committee's agenda consistent with the committee's assigned scope of work and the City Council Work Program, and publish such agenda in accordance with Rule VI.C.6, VI.C.7, and VI.C.8.
7. Run meetings expeditiously.
8. Preserve order and decorum.



**G. Duties and Responsibilities of Members.**

Committee members shall acquaint themselves with the interests of the City specifically represented by that committee, and shall make recommendations to the City Council on Council Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments, and such other reports as in their judgment(s) shall advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people of the City.

**H. Voting, Referral, and Reporting.**

1. Only members of a standing committee (or the alternate if serving as a member) may vote, or abstain from voting, on issues before the committee.
2. Committee action on any Council Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment shall be limited to recommendations for the City Council to consider when voting on final action for that item.
3. Committees shall not vote on a final recommendation on any Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment on the same day that a public hearing was held on that item, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.
4. Starting at noon on the Thursday immediately preceding a regular City Council meeting, committees shall not refer legislation to that meeting for final action except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule and the concurrence of the President.
5. Committee Reports.  
Committees shall report their final recommendations on legislation to the City Council. Reports shall include the committee recommendation, the names of CMs in attendance and the decision of each CM on the final recommendation whether voting in favor, voting opposed, or abstaining from voting. Reports of standing committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings
  - a. If a committee recommendation is not unanimous:
    - i. Unless otherwise authorized by the President and the committee Chair, the committee report shall be reported to the second regular City Council meeting after the date of the recommendation; and
    - ii. Immediately after the meeting at which the recommendation is voted on, the Clerk of the committee shall provide the committee report on such legislation to all CMs.
  - b. A CM abstaining from voting does not make the vote non-unanimous.
6. Divided Votes.  
A report may accompany any non-unanimous committee recommendation, including an indication of how each CM voted and a statement describing the rationale for each voting CM's position.

- a. Such reports shall only be presented to the City Council if a CM who voted against the committee recommendation submits a request to the President, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least four calendar days before presentation of the recommendation to the City Council. If a report is made, it shall be distributed to all CMs by noon the day presentation of the recommendation is scheduled to be made to the City Council.
- b. When the City Council receives such report, the first position considered shall be the majority position (or the Chair's position if there is no majority).

**I. Finance Committee.**

The City Council shall have a Finance Committee of not less than three members.\*

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 5.

## VII. SELECT COMMITTEES

### A. Formation.

The President may create, amend, or abolish select committees and shall appoint the Chair and membership to select or other non-standing committees as required, or as deemed necessary to efficiently conduct the business of the Council. When creating the committee, the President shall specify at least three CMs as a quorum. Any committee created under this Rule may be of limited duration or focus.

### B. Meetings.

1. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall unless a specific alternate location is established by the Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the regular members of the committee, and appropriate public notice and access are provided.
2. Regular meeting dates, times, and locations may be determined in advance and filed in a Clerk File by the President upon creation of the select committee. The committee Chair may cancel a meeting at any time.
3. Meetings shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as City Council meetings, with the agenda limited to committee business and only rules and procedures applicable to committees in effect.
4. Preliminary agendas for upcoming regular meetings shall list items for which discussion, amendments, and/or recommendation is expected. Items where only amendments will be considered shall be listed as possible amendments, and items where amendments and/or a final recommendation is expected shall be listed as possible vote for public notification, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.
5. All reasonable effort shall be made to provide the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting, with the exception of the Budget Committee, which shall publish agendas pursuant to Rule VII.H.5.
6. All reasonable effort shall be made to make materials that are to be presented in the meeting available online at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, with the exception of the Budget Committee, which shall publish agendas pursuant to Rule VII.H.5.
7. In accordance with 42.30.035 RCW, meeting minutes shall be promptly produced after each meeting and made available for public review.

**C. Special Meetings.**

A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting.

1. Special meetings may be scheduled by the committee Chair.
2. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080. All reasonable effort shall be made to publish the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting.
3. The only items of business for which final action may be taken at a special meeting are those items listed on the written notice.

**D. Attendance – Requirements; Excused Absences.**

1. Each committee member shall attend its meetings.
2. Committee Member Notification Duties.
  - a. For a committee with an alternate, if, at least three business days before a committee meeting, a committee member can notify the Chair and alternate of an expected absence from the entire meeting, the committee member shall do so, after which the alternate shall inform the Chair of the alternate's availability. Otherwise, the committee member shall notify the Chair, the Chair shall contact the alternate, and the alternate shall inform the Chair of the alternate's availability, all as soon as practical. Once these conditions are met, the alternate assumes the rights of the absent committee member for the actual duration of the absence.
  - b. For a committee without an alternate, if, at least three business days before a committee meeting, a committee member can notify the Chair of an expected absence from the entire meeting, the committee member shall do so. Otherwise, the committee member shall notify the Chair as soon as practical.
3. A committee member may be excused with the consent of the Chair.

**E. Duties of the Chair.**

The committee Chair shall:

1. Provide at each meeting a public comment period pursuant to Rule XI.C.3.a.
2. Act as presiding officer and call the meetings to order at the appointed times.
3. State the amount of time allowed for speakers and announce instructions to the speakers at the start of each meeting. The Chair may allow additional time for the submission of written comment from the public.

4. Announce CMs in attendance at the call to order and as they join the meeting.
5. Recognize CMs and, in accordance with these General Rules and Procedures, others who wish to speak.
6. Set the committee's agenda consistent with the committee's assigned scope of work and publish such agenda in accordance with Rule VII.B.4, VII.B.5, and VII.B.6.
7. Run meetings expeditiously.
8. Preserve order and decorum.

**F. Duties and Responsibilities of Members.**

Committee members shall acquaint themselves with the interests of the City specifically represented by that committee, and shall make recommendations to the City Council on Council Bills, Resolutions, and Clerk Files, and such other reports as in their judgment(s) shall advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people of the City.

**G. Voting, Referral, and Reporting.**

1. Only members of a select committee meeting may vote, or abstain from voting, on issues before the committee.
2. Committee action on any Council Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment, is limited to recommendations for the City Council to consider when voting on final action for that item.
3. Committees shall not vote on a final recommendation on any Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment on the same day that a public hearing was held on that item, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.
4. Starting at noon on the Thursday immediately preceding a regular City Council meeting, committees shall not refer legislation to that meeting for final action except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule and the concurrence of the President.
5. Committee Reports:  
Committees shall report their final recommendations on legislation reported to the City Council. Reports shall include committee recommendation, the names of CMs in attendance and the decision of each CMs on the final recommendation whether voting in favor, voting opposed, or abstaining from voting. Reports of select committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings.

- a. If a committee recommendation is not unanimous:
    - i. Unless otherwise authorized by the President and the committee Chair, the committee report shall be reported to the second regular City Council meeting after the date of the recommendation; and
    - ii. Immediately after the meeting at which the recommendation is voted on, the Clerk of the committee shall provide the committee report on such legislation to all CMs.
  - b. A CM abstaining from voting does not make the vote non-unanimous.
6. Divided Votes.
- A report may accompany any non-unanimous committee recommendation, including an indication of how each CM voted and a statement describing the rationale for each voting CM's position.
- a. Such reports shall only be presented to the City Council if a CM who voted against the committee recommendation submits a request to the President, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least four calendar days before presentation of the recommendation to the City Council. If a report is made, it shall be distributed to all CMs by noon the day presentation of the recommendation is scheduled to be made to the City Council.
  - b. When the City Council receives such report, the first position considered shall be the majority position (or the Chair's position if there is no majority).

**H. Budget Committee.**

- 1. The Budget Committee is a select committee comprised of all CMs, chaired by the Chair of the Finance Committee.
- 2. The Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee shall serve as Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee.
- 3. The primary purpose of the Budget Committee is to review the Mayor's proposed budget and proposed capital improvement program (CIP), amend as appropriate, and adopt a budget and CIP. The Budget Committee shall review and take action on other budget issues during the year as may be assigned.
- 4. From the time the Budget Committee receives the Mayor's proposed budget (typically the end of September) to the time the Council adopts a budget (typically the third week of November), regular standing and select committee meetings shall be suspended. Special standing and select committee meetings may be called:
  - a. If legislative action is required within a set time (e.g., quasi-judicial actions with 90-day deadlines for Council review); or
  - b. Upon the approval of the President and the Chair of the Budget Committee, after consultation with the Central Staff Director.

5. Preliminary agendas of Budget Committee meetings are required to list only general topics for discussion and/or recommendation. All reasonable effort shall be made to publish preliminary agendas online at least two business days before the meeting. Final agendas of Budget Committee meetings shall be issued no later than the morning of the scheduled meeting and shall include all items to be discussed.
6. A budget Amendment is a proposed change to the Mayor's proposed budget and accompanying legislation. Budget Amendments are developed in accordance with these Rules and include: amendments to budget legislation; development of new Council Bills or Resolutions; Council Budget Actions (CBAs); and Statements of Legislative Intent (SLIs).
  - a. Budget Amendments that meet established deadlines on the Budget Committee schedule may be published on the appropriate meeting agenda.
  - b. Budget Amendments that are not included on a final published agenda shall not be presented at a Budget Committee meeting unless circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the preceding business day. This rule may only be suspended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of CMs present and voting at a Budget Committee meeting.
7. In accordance with 42.30.035 RCW, meeting minutes shall be promptly produced after each meeting and made available for public review.
8. The quorum for the Budget Committee is at least three CMs.
9. Adoption of a Balanced Budget Package:
  - a. The Chair shall prepare a group of budget revisions (Chair's Initial Proposed Balancing Package) that if adopted would amend the Mayor's proposed budget to produce a budget in which expenditures do not exceed revenues.
  - b. Following Committee discussion of the Chair's Initial Balancing Package, the Chair may prepare a Revised Balancing Package, subject to the same requirements under Rule VII.H.9.a. The Chair shall endeavor to inform CMs of any changes made to the Chair's Initial Balancing Package prior to the scheduled vote on the Revised Balancing Package in the Budget Committee.
  - c. If a CM wants to propose one or more amendments or substitute actions to the Proposed Balancing Package, the CM must make an appropriate motion at the Budget Committee, requiring a second and a majority of CMs present and voting.
10. Other rules and procedures for the Budget Committee, and the meeting dates and times for regular meetings, shall be established by the President in consultation with the Budget Committee Chair. Any rules and procedures regarding meeting times, dates, locations, attendance, and quorum supersede provisions in this Rule VII on those topics, except that a quorum may not be fewer than three CMs.

**I. Labor Committee.**

1. The Labor Committee is a select committee comprised of the President, the Chair of the Council Budget Committee, and three CMs selected by the President.
2. The primary purpose of the Labor Committee is to serve on the Labor Relations Policy Committee and perform the functions established by SMC Section 4.04.120.



## VIII. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

### A. Appointment.

1. CM participation on an external committee (a governing or advisory body on which CMs serve that is not a Council committee) is typically established by Resolution.
2. If the vacancy of a City Council position requires the appointment and/or election of a replacement CM, the replacement CM shall assume the replaced CM's external committee duties and responsibilities unless stated otherwise, whether by Resolution or appropriate action of another body responsible for appointments to the committee.

### B. Attendance.

CMs serving on an external committee shall attend its meetings unless the CM is unavailable.

### C. Notification If Unable to Attend.

If a CM is unable to attend an external committee meeting, the CM's office shall inform the committee alternate(s) as soon as practical. When an alternate is notified of the absence, the alternate shall attend the meeting unless the alternate is also unavailable. If the alternate is unable to attend, the alternate's office shall notify other members or alternates (if there are any).

## IX. COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETINGS

### A. Purpose, Procedure, and Scope.

The Council may, at the discretion of the Council President, hold Council Briefing meetings, chaired by the President, to discuss and receive briefings on issues of general interest. The President shall be Chair of the meetings. A quorum of three CMs is required at any Council Briefing meeting. The Council shall take no vote or other final action at any Council Briefing meeting, other than approving Council Briefing minutes or collectively signing documents.

### B. Location and Frequency.

1. Council Briefing meetings shall be held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, unless a specific alternate location is established by the President and appropriate public notice and access are provided.
2. Regular Council Briefing meetings shall be held at 2:00 p.m. each Monday, provided however that there shall be no regular Council Briefing meetings if Monday is a holiday. Regular meetings shall not be held on the last two Mondays in August nor on the last two Mondays in December. Council Briefing meetings may be canceled by the President at any time.
3. A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting. Special meetings may be scheduled by the committee Chair. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080.

### C. Preliminary Agendas.

1. Preliminary agendas of upcoming regular Council Briefing meetings shall list items for which discussion is expected and shall be made available to the public. All reasonable effort shall be made to publish the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting.
2. For special Council Briefing meetings, all reasonable effort shall be made to publish the preliminary agenda online at least two business days prior to the meeting.
3. In accordance with 42.30.035 RCW, meeting minutes shall be promptly produced after each meeting and made available for public review.

## **X. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

### **A. When Sessions May Be Held.**

Executive sessions may be held during City Council meetings, Council Briefing meetings, standing or select committee meetings, whether regular or special meetings, and at other times as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 and 42.30.140 and SMC 5.24.020 and 5.24.030.

### **B. How Sessions May Be Convened.**

The presiding officer or a majority of those CMs in attendance may decide to convene an executive session during a particular meeting. An executive session may be ended by the presiding officer or by a majority vote of those CMs in attendance.

### **C. Purpose of Session.**

Before convening an executive session, the presiding officer shall announce the purpose of the executive session, and the time when the executive session is expected to conclude.

### **D. Attorney to be Present.**

1. An attorney from the Law Department, or outside counsel if appropriate, shall be present during all executive sessions to advise CMs on compliance with RCW 42.30.
2. The Council may choose to waive the attorney-client privilege regarding legal matters discussed with counsel at an executive session only if all nine CMs are in attendance and unanimously agree to waive the privilege. Legislative Department staff shall not waive the privilege. Executive session is the only forum in which the Council may waive attorney-client privilege for any attorney-client privileged documents presented to the Council in or out of executive session.

### **E. Attendees.**

Attendance at an executive session is limited to:

1. CMs;
2. Assistants to CMs representing their CM in absentia (and this attendance is limited to presence, not participation);
3. The City Clerk or designee;
4. Legal counsel assigned to the matter at issue;
5. The City Council's Central Staff Director and/or designee; and

6. Designated city staff members and others representing the City (e.g., consultants) who are directly involved in the issue and who have been invited by the presiding officer to attend.

**F. Confidentiality.**

Executive session attendees shall not disclose the contents of discussions held within the session.

**G. Issues.**

Issues that may be considered in executive session include, but are not limited to:

1. Consideration of the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price;
2. Consideration of the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price;
3. Evaluation of complaints against a public officer or employee;
4. Evaluation of qualifications of candidate for appointment to elective office;
5. Evaluation of qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee;
6. Discussion with legal counsel regarding litigation or potential litigation to which the City or a CM acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence; and
7. Planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken during the course of collective bargaining or reviewing the proposals made in labor negotiations while in progress.

## **XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS**

### **A. Public Sessions – Open to Public; Location.**

1. All meetings of the Council, and all meetings of standing and select committees (except executive sessions or as otherwise permitted by law), shall be open to the public and shall be conducted in a manner that provides the opportunity for attendees to hear and see the proceedings of those Members physically present and to hear any CMs attending by electronic means.  
(See Rule XI.J Inclusive Access and Participation – Requests for Reasonable Accommodation.)
2. The Council shall not adjourn its regular City Council meetings to any place other than its regular meeting place, which is the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, except as provided by law.\*  
(See Rule II.A.2 City Council Meetings; and Rule XI.D.3 Disruptions of Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.)
3. Meetings of standing committees shall not convene in or adjourn to any place other than that committee’s regular meeting place, which is the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, unless a specific alternate location is established by the Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the committee’s regular CMs and appropriate public notice and access are provided.
4. Meetings of select committees may be held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, or an alternate location as established by the committee Chair so long as appropriate public notice and access are provided.

### **B. Public Hearings – Purpose; Duties of Chair.**

Public Hearings are opportunities for members of the public to speak on a particular proposed Ordinance, Resolution, Clerk File, Appointment, or other legislative action. If a Public Hearing is scheduled for a particular meeting, the agenda for the meeting shall specify the proposed Ordinance, Resolution, Clerk File, other legislative action, or other subject to be discussed at the public hearing.

(See Rule VI.F Duties of the Chair.)

1. Public hearings may be held as part of a scheduled City Council, select, or standing committee meeting, but the public hearing shall be conducted as a separate agenda item.
2. The Chair of the body conducting the public hearing shall:
  - a. Announce at the beginning of the public hearing the rules, guidelines, and time limits for individual speakers; and

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\* Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

- b. Require all speakers to sign in on registers, when provided by Legislative Department staff.
3. Members of the public who wish to speak at public hearings shall comply with Rule XI.D and XI.E.

**C. Public Comment at City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.**

Public comment periods are opportunities for members of the public to comment on items on the meeting's agenda or, in the case of a committee meeting, on matters within the purview of the committee. The agenda for a particular Council meeting may specify the total time allotted for the public comment period and for time limits for individual comments.

(See Rule XI.B Public Hearings.)

1. The Council shall not accept public comment at special City Council meetings.
2. The Council shall accept public comment at regular City Council meetings.
  - a. Public comment at City Council meetings shall be limited to matters on the Introduction and Referral Calendar, Committee Reports on that day's regular City Council meeting agenda, and other matters directly related to the City Council Work Program; and
  - b. The President shall ensure that all public comment is in accordance with Rule XI.C.2.a.
3. Council committees shall accept public comment at standing and select committee meetings.
  - a. Public comment at a committee meeting shall be limited to matters within the purview of the specific committee or an item listed on that day's agenda.
  - b. The presiding officer at a committee meeting shall ensure that all public comment is in accordance with Rule XI.C.3.a.
4. Total public comment periods shall not exceed 20 minutes unless extended at the discretion of the presiding officer.
5. Individual speakers shall be provided up to two minutes total speaking time. Individuals who wish to speak shall sign up for public comment on registers, when provided by Legislative Department staff.  
(See Rule XI.J Inclusive Access and Participation – Requests for Reasonable Accommodation.)
6. When recognized by the presiding officer, the individual shall address the members in the form prescribed, state the individual's name for the record, and identify the item to which the individual shall speak. At the presiding officer's discretion, this Rule may be waived in the interest of personal safety of the person speaking.

7. Council and committee proceedings are electronically recorded; therefore, speakers wishing to address the Council or committee during the established public comment period shall speak only from the audio source prescribed.
8. If no speakers sign up to address the Council or the committee, or if the public comments conclude before the 20-minute time period has elapsed, the comment period shall be closed, and the Council or committee shall resume its business, with no further opportunity for public comment at that meeting.
9. The Council is not required to allow public comment at Council Briefing meetings.
10. No public comments addressing the merits of a quasi-judicial action shall be permitted at any Council or committee meeting.

**D. Disruptions of City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.**

1. Disruptions of City Council and committee meetings are prohibited. Disruptions include but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Failure of a speaker to comply with the allotted time established for the individual speaker's public comment;
  - b. Outbursts from members of the public who have not been recognized by the presiding officer for public comment;
  - c. Comments that are not in compliance with Rule XI.C.2.a or XI.C.3.a, or that are unrelated to the particular proposed Ordinance, Resolution, Appointment, Clerk File, or other legislative action on which a public hearing is being held;
  - d. Delaying the orderly conduct or progress of the public comment period, including a failure to respect the process of accommodating individuals who wish to provide public comment;
  - e. Use of an allotted individual comment period for purposeful delay, including remaining silent or engaging in other activity without conveying a discernible message;
  - f. Standing in the center aisle or front row of the audience unless speaking as recognized by the presiding officer, waiting to speak during the public comment period, or gathering meeting materials distributed by Legislative Department staff;
  - g. Holding or placement of a banner or sign in the Council Chamber in a way that endangers others or obstructs the free flow of pedestrians or the view of others attending a Council or Committee meeting;
  - h. Behavior that intentionally disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes attendance or participation at a Council or Committee meeting; or
  - i. Failure to follow the direction of a Presiding Officer or security official related to disruptions described in Rule XI.D.1(a) through (h).

2. Signs may be displayed during Council and committee meetings in a manner consistent with these Rules. Any written communication intended for a CM may be submitted to the City Clerk for distribution to the intended recipient.
3. The presiding officer shall preserve the order and decorum of a Council or committee meeting at all times. If an individual fails to comply with Rule XI.D.1, any CM may issue an oral or written warning to the individual that the individual's behavior is out of order. An oral or written warning may be issued based on an individual's prior conduct at a Council or committee meeting. If the individual continues to engage in activity that violates Rule XI.D.1, any CM may:
  - a. Terminate the individual's comment period;
  - b. Direct security staff of the prescribed forum to assist an individual to the individual's seat; or
  - c. Direct security staff of the prescribed forum to remove the individual from the meeting.
4. Any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting pursuant to Rule XI.D.3.c shall be excluded from returning to that same meeting from which the individual was removed.
5. If an individual fails to comply with the requirements of Rule XI.D.1 over the course of multiple meetings, any CM may exclude the individual from participation in future public comment periods before the Council and/or committee meetings, or exclude the individual from attendance at future Council and/or committee meetings.
  - a. The CM imposing the exclusion shall inform the individual of the specific reason for, and the specific terms of, the exclusion.
  - b. An initial and any subsequent exclusion of an individual from future participation in public comment periods or future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings may be issued for up to 28 calendar days.
  - c. If an individual is subject to an exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings for a period of 28 calendar days, and further engages in activity that violates Rule XI.D.1, other than subsection c, within 60 days after the termination of the exclusion period, an additional exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings may be issued for up to 90 calendar days.
  - d. If an individual is subject to an exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings for a period of 90 or more calendar days, and further engages in activity that violates Rule XI.D.1, other than subsection c, within 60 days after the termination of the exclusion period, an additional exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings may be issued for up to 180 calendar days.
  - e. The length of the period of any exclusion may depend upon the seriousness of the disruption, the number of disruptions, and the individual's prior record with conduct at Council or committee meetings.



- f. When issuing an exclusion from future public comment periods, or from future attendance at Council or committee meetings, the CM shall include specific notification that the individual may submit written comments to the City Clerk for distribution to the Council at future public comment periods.

**E. Abusive and Harassing Behavior During City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.**

1. Engaging in abusive or harassing behavior may subject an individual to immediate removal from a meeting and an exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings for a period of up to one year.
2. Abusive and harassing behavior means actions that purposefully or recklessly alarm other individuals and serve no legitimate advocacy purpose. Abusive and harassing behavior includes but is not limited to the following:
  - a. The use of obscene language and gestures;
  - b. Assaults or threatening behavior; or
  - c. Sexual misconduct, such as indecent exposure, offensive touching, or sexual harassment, including threats of such behavior.
3. Engaging in abusive or harassing behavior may subject an individual to criminal sanctions in addition to enforcement of the Council Rules.

**F. Appeals of Meeting Exclusions; Other Authority.**

1. The decision of any CM to impose a sanction or exclusion for disruptive activity may be overruled by a majority vote of those CMs in attendance either at the meeting where the disruption took place or at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.
2. Any individual excluded from participation in future public comment periods or from attendance at future Council or committee meetings for a period of more than two calendar days may appeal the exclusion by submitting a written appeal to the City Council within five business days after receiving notice of the exclusion. Upon receipt of a written appeal, the City Council shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled open public meeting. The individual's exclusion from public comment periods or from attendance at Council or committee meetings shall remain in effect during the Council's consideration of the appeal.
3. The enforcement provisions of these rules are in addition to the authority of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services to enforce Rules of Conduct in City Hall pursuant to Rule 05-02, and Rules regarding City Buildings and Premises pursuant to Rule 06-03. Disruptions of a Council or committee meeting, including interference with City officials or City staff's preparation for a meeting, may be addressed under Rule 05-02 or Rule 06-03.

**G. Interruption(s) to City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.**

1. It is the responsibility of the presiding officer to maintain order and adjourn any meeting as the presiding officer deems necessary.
2. If a meeting is interrupted by any person or by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting not feasible, and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are interrupting the meeting, the members of the Council or the committee conducting the meeting may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session, or may adjourn the meeting and re-convene at another location selected by a majority vote of CMs present and voting. In such a session, final disposition may be taken only on matters appearing on the agenda. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this Rule XI.G.
3. The Council or the committees may establish procedures for re-admitting an individual or individuals not responsible for disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.
4. If a meeting is adjourned due to an interruption, CMs and staff may leave the meeting room until the meeting is reconvened.  
(See RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions – Procedures.)

**H. Public Access to CMs and Offices.**

1. No individual other than the Legislative Department staff may approach the CMs or the Clerks while the Council or a committee is in session, unless permitted to do so by the President or Chair.
2. During committee meetings and Council Briefing meetings, no persons other than Legislative Department staff shall join the prescribed forum, unless specifically invited by the committee Chair to provide information necessary to committee business.
3. Physical access to CM office areas is limited and provided only in accordance with established policies and procedures of the Legislative Department.
4. Individuals desiring to electronically tape (audio, video, etc.) or photograph a CM or CMs within the CM office area(s) may only do so with the permission of the respective CM(s) or their respective staff members, when so delegated.
5. Access by media shall be in accordance with Legislative Department policy.
6. The presiding officer or designee may temporarily suspend or modify this Rule XI.H to protect the safe and responsible functioning of the Council.

**I. Digital Recording of Meetings.**

1. Public meetings of the Council shall be electronically recorded whenever feasible. The presiding officer or designee may temporarily suspend or modify this Rule XI.I.1 to protect the safe and responsible functioning of the Council.
2. Executive sessions and those meetings exempted from chapter 42.30 RCW shall not be recorded.
3. The City Clerk shall maintain custody of recordings made pursuant to Rule XI.I.1.

**J. Inclusive Access and Participation – Requests for Reasonable Accommodation.**

1. Assistive listening devices shall be available in the Council Chamber during all meetings of the Council and its committees, and in other rooms or places where the Council meets and where Council proceedings are broadcast.
2. Upon request, reasonable efforts to provide accommodations shall be made to enable persons with disabilities to attend and participate in all public Council meetings.
3. Upon request, reasonable efforts to provide translation or interpretation services shall be made for individuals attending Council meetings.
4. Because a request for an accommodation, translation, or interpretation services may require sufficient lead time to respond, the request should be made at the earliest possible opportunity to the Office of the City Clerk at 206-684-8888 or TYY Relay 7-1-1.
5. The Office of the City Clerk shall evaluate all requests and provide reasonable accommodations and translation and interpretation services.

**K. Use of the Council Chamber.**

1. Council business shall have priority over other uses of the Council Chamber.
2. Other uses of the Council Chamber shall be in accordance with Legislative Department policy.

## **XII. ALTERATION OF GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. Suspension.**

1. A rule or procedure not listed in Rule XII.A.2 may be temporarily suspended:
  - a. If a CM requests suspension and no objection is offered; or
  - b. In open session upon a two-thirds vote.

Any rule or procedure so suspended shall be announced by the presiding officer, after which the Council or committee shall proceed accordingly.

2. The following rules or procedures established by this document shall not be suspended:
  - a. This Rule XII.A;
  - b. Rule XII.B;
  - c. Rule V.G.1.b;
  - d. Rule X.F;
  - e. Those required by the Charter, the Seattle Municipal Code, or state law; and
  - f. Any part of a Rule that establishes a quorum.
3. The City Clerk shall provide a guide for compliance with this Rule XII.A, which guide is attached as Appendix A to these Rules.

### **B. Biennial Review.**

The President and City Clerk shall conduct and coordinate biennial reviews of the General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council.

### **C. Amendment.**

Amendments of these General Rules and Procedures shall be by a majority vote of CMs and, if applicable, pursuant to SMC 3.02.030.

Appendix A

**LIST OF NON-SUSPENDIBLE RULES**

*(These Rules and Procedures are based on Charter, RCW, or SMC provisions and should not be suspended without consulting applicable provisions)*

<b>CITY CHARTER PROVISIONS</b>	<b>RULE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>CHARTER REF.</b>
CMs establish the rules for their proceedings	I.A.1	5	Art. IV, § 4
Individual CMs shall not have or execute executive or administrative power	I.A.3	5	Art. IV, § 4, Fifth
Council has authority to punish CMs	I.A.4	5	Art. IV, § 4
Council chooses President from among members	I.C.1	6	Art. IV, § 4, First
President performs usual functions of presiding officer	I.C.1	6	Art. IV, § 4, First
Removal of president	I.C.2	6	Art. IV, § 4, First
Council Bills are signed in open session by the President	I.C.3.b	7	Art. IV, § 11
The President acting as Mayor	I.C.3.g	7	Art. V, § 9
The President heads the Legislative Department	I.C.3.h	7	Art. III, § 3
President Pro Tem acts as President	I.D.3	8	Art. V, § 9
Regular City Council meeting dates and times	II.A.1	9	Art. IV, § 6
Quorum for City Council (majority of all members)	II.A.3	9	Art. IV, § 3
Provisions for City Council special meetings	II.B	10	Art. IV, § 6 (also RCW 42.30.080)
CMs must attend all regular City Council meetings unless excused	II.D.1	12	Art. IV, § 3
Attendance at City Council meeting can be compelled	II.D.3	12	Art. IV, § 3
Council Bills cannot be introduced and passed at the same meeting	III.A.6	14	Art. IV, § 8
Council Bills require at least a majority of all CMs' votes to pass	III.A.7	14	Art. IV, § 8
President announces signature of Council Bills when they are passed	III.B.2	15	Art. IV, § 11
Council Bills to be read upon passage if requested by a CM	III.B.2	15	Art. IV, § 11
Council Bills vetoed by the Mayor are voted on again by Council	III.C.1	15	Art. IV, § 12
Reconsideration of vetoed bills must occur within 5 days of veto	III.C.2	15	Art. IV, § 12
2/3 vote is required to pass a reconsidered bill that was vetoed	III.C.3	15	Art. IV, § 12
Vetoed bills may not be reconsidered again if lost on reconsideration vote	III.C.4	15	Art. IV, § 12
A roll call vote may be demanded by a CM	V.B	20	Art. IV, § 4, Third

Att 1 Appx A – List of Non-Suspendible Rules

V1

<b>CITY CHARTER PROVISIONS</b>	<b>RULE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>CHARTER REF.</b>
When passage of a bill fails in City Council by vote, it may not be reconsidered before the next regular City Council meeting	V.G.1.b	21	Art. IV, § 10
Establishing a Finance Committee	VI.I	26	Art. IV, § 5
Meeting location for City Council regular meetings	XI.A.2	36	Art. IV, § 6

<b>RCW PROVISIONS</b>	<b>RULE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>RCW REF.</b>
Who can call a special meeting and how it shall be noticed	II.B.1	10	42.30.080 (also Charter Art. IV, § 6)
Notice of Full Council special meetings	II.B.2	10	42.30.080
Calling special emergency meetings; meeting notice requirements	II.C	11	42.30.070; 42.30.080; 42.14.075
When an executive session may be held	X.A	35	42.30.140
How an executive session is conducted	X.A	35	42.30.110
Disrupted meetings may be adjourned and reconvened elsewhere	XI.G.2	42	42.30.050

<b>SMC PROVISIONS</b>	<b>RULE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>SMC REF.</b>
Appearance of Fairness disqualifications	I.B.2.d	6	4.16
CMs must disqualify themselves from acting on certain City business	V.A.1	20	4.16
Amendment of Rules and Procedures	XII.A	45	3.02.030

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
LEG	Aly Pennucci / 48148	n/a

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION revising certain General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; amending Rules III and V in Attachment 1 of Resolution 32029

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** Resolution 32029 adopted the Seattle City Council "General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council" ("Council Rules") in December 2021 to govern both its internal management and the procedures available to the public, in conformance with the City Charter and the customary practice of legislative bodies. The proposed resolution would amend the Council Rules to:

- (1) add guidance for the use of a consent calendar at regular city council meetings;
- (2) clarify the rule allowing councilmembers to abstain from certain resolutions; and
- (3) update the formatting, numbering, and table of contents.

*Consent Calendar:* In 2022, the Council President began using a consent calendar on city council agendas. This allows for the Council to efficiently move through Council business at regularly scheduled council meetings. As proposed, the changes to Rule III.B and the addition of Rule III.E provides guidance on use of a consent calendar at any particular Council meeting; items on the consent calendar are considered as a group and only require a single vote on all items included. The consent calendar could include administrative items, or items where there is no debate or questions expected from councilmembers. The proposed rule would allow any items proposed for inclusion on the consent calendar to be removed and added to the regular agenda at the request of any councilmember.

*Abstentions:* In December of 2021, the Council amended the Council Rules to allow abstentions on resolutions that, in the sole discretion of the Council President, are not materially related to City government. The proposed resolution with amend this rule to provide more clarity on resolutions that councilmembers can abstain from. Attachment A to this Summary and Fiscal Note includes 245 resolutions considered by the council since 2019 and indicates if, based on the proposed rule, a councilmember could abstain. Based on this review, councilmembers could have abstained from approximately 19 percent of resolutions considered by the Council during that time period.

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**       Yes  No

If yes, please fill out the table below and attach a new (if creating a project) or marked-up (if amending) CIP Page to the Council Bill. Please include the spending plan as part of the attached CIP Page. If no, please delete the table.

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?**

Yes  No

If there are no changes to appropriations, revenues, or positions, please delete the table below.

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**

If so, describe the nature of the impacts. This could include increased operating and maintenance costs, for example.

No

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs or consequences.

No

**3.c. Positions**

**This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.**

If this box is checked, please complete this section. If this box is not checked, please proceed to Other Implications.

**Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through This Legislation, Including FTE Impact:**

Position # for Existing Positions	Position Title & Department*	Fund Name & #	Program & BCL	PT/FT	2022 Positions	2022 FTE	Does it sunset? (If yes, explain below in Position Notes)
<b>TOTAL</b>							

\* List each position separately.

This table should only reflect the actual number of positions created by this legislation. In the event that positions have been, or will be, created as a result of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below.

**Position Notes:**

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

If so, please list the affected department(s) and the nature of the impact (financial, operational, etc.).

No

**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

If yes, what public hearings have been held to date, and/or what public hearings are planned/required in the future?

No



**c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

For example, legislation related to sale of surplus property, condemnation, or certain capital projects with private partners may require publication of notice. If you aren't sure, please check with your lawyer. If publication of notice is required, describe any steps taken to comply with that requirement.

No

**d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

If yes, and if a map or other visual representation of the property is not already included as an exhibit or attachment to the legislation itself, then you must include a map and/or other visual representation of the property and its location as an attachment to the fiscal note. Place a note on the map attached to the fiscal note that indicates the map is intended for illustrative or informational purposes only and is not intended to modify anything in the legislation.

No

**e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

If yes, please explain how this legislation may impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. Using the racial equity toolkit is one way to help determine the legislation's impact on certain communities. If any aspect of the legislation involves communication or outreach to the public, please describe the plan for communicating with non-English speakers.

**f. Climate Change Implications**

**1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?**

Please provide a qualitative response, considering net impacts. Are there potential carbon emissions impacts of not implementing the proposed legislation? Discuss any potential intersections of carbon emissions impacts and race and social justice impacts, if not previously described in Section 4.e.

**2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

Describe the potential climate resiliency impacts of implementing or not implementing the proposed legislation. Discuss any potential intersections of climate resiliency and race and social justice impacts, if not previously described in Section 4e.

**g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?**

This answer should highlight measurable outputs and outcomes.

No

**Summary Attachments:**

- A. Examples of resolutions a councilmember could abstain from per the proposed change to Rule V

Attachment A: Examples of resolutions a councilmember could abstain from per the proposed change to Rule V			
Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2022	Res 32044	A RESOLUTION modifying Resolution 31938 and the March 14, 2020 emergency order relating to residential evictions.	N
2022	Res 32043	A RESOLUTION declaring the intention of the City Council to hold a public hearing relating to changing the assessment rate for the Seattle Tourism Improvement Area.	N
2022	Res 32042	A RESOLUTION calling for a special election to fill a vacancy in the City employee-elected position on the Civil Service Commission and directing the City Clerk to administer the election.	N
2022	Res 32041	A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council's support for workers at Starbucks in Seattle who are attempting to form a union, and urging Starbucks to accept card check neutrality.	Y
2022	Res 32040	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; affirming the City Light Department's Clean Energy Implementation Plan as required under Washington State's Clean Energy Transformation Act.	N
2022	Res 32039	A RESOLUTION supporting Seattle School District No. 1's Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 and urging Seattle voters to vote "Yes" on Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 on the February 8, 2022, special election ballot.	Y
2022	Res 32038	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle City Councilmember participation, for 2022 and 2023, on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees; and superseding Resolution 31927.	N
2022	Res 32037	A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council for 2022 and 2023; and superseding Resolution 31947.	N
2022	Res 32036	A RESOLUTION designating the monthly President Pro Tem of the City Council of The City of Seattle for 2022-2023; superseding Resolution 31924.	N
2021	Res 32035	A RESOLUTION recognizing the efforts of the Crown Hill community to prepare an action plan for their community; and identifying strategies and actions to implement the Crown Hill Urban Village Action Plan.	N
2021	Res 32034	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle Parks and Recreation; authorizing the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of The City of Seattle and to legally bind The City of Seattle with respect to certain projects for which the City seeks grant funding assistance managed through the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).	N
2021	Res 32033	A RESOLUTION declaring the City Council's and the Mayor's intent to consider strategies to ensure that all unreinforced masonry buildings in Seattle are seismically retrofitted.	N
2021	Res 32032	A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle's 2022 State Legislative Agenda.	N
2021	Res 32031	A RESOLUTION ratifying the 2021 Update to the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed or Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA 9) Salmon Habitat Plan, Making Our Watershed Fit for a King.	N
2021	Res 32030	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; acknowledging and approving the City Light Department's adoption of a biennial energy conservation target for 2022-2023 and ten-year conservation potential.	N
2021	Res 32029	A RESOLUTION adopting General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; superseding Resolution 31920.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2021	Res 32028	A RESOLUTION concerning the health, well-being, and safety of domestic workers; expressing Council's intent to establish a right to portable Paid Time Off (PTO) for domestic workers in Seattle; and requesting the Office of Labor Standards to work with community stakeholders to draft legislation creating a portable PTO policy for domestic workers.	N
2021	Res 32027	A RESOLUTION modifying the Mayoral Civil Emergency Order of October 29, 2021, related to hiring incentives for public safety emergency response.	N
2021	Res 32026	A RESOLUTION requesting King County and the State of Washington to increase services to address behavioral health conditions.	Y
2021	Res 32025	A RESOLUTION modifying the Mayoral Civil Emergency Order of October 29, 2021, related to hiring incentives for public safety emergency response.	N
2021	Res 32024	A RESOLUTION adopting revised financial policies for the Emergency Fund.	N
2021	Res 32023	A RESOLUTION amending Resolution 31334; establishing the City Council's intent to fund the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) as informed by the January 1, 2021. Actuarial Study.	N
2021	Res 32022	A RESOLUTION approving interest rates set by the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) Board of Administration for 2022.	N
2021	Res 32021	A RESOLUTION declaring that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of anyone engaging in entheogen-related activities should be among The City of Seattle's lowest law enforcement priorities and stating the Council's support for full decriminalization of these activities.	N
2021	Res 32020	A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of Grand Street Commons LLC for the vacation of the alley in Block 14, Jos C. Kinnear's Addition to The City of Seattle in the block bounded by 23rd Avenue South, South Grand Street, 22nd Avenue South, and South Holgate Street in the North Rainier/Mt. Baker Hub Urban Village area of Seattle, according to Chapter 35.79 of the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 15.62 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and Clerk File 314459.	N
2021	Res 32019	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of Thomas St between 1st Ave N and 2nd Ave N as "Lenny Wilkens Way."	N
2021	Res 32018	A RESOLUTION supporting the creation of a United States Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools and other actions to address the lasting harm of Indian boarding schools.	Y
2021	Res 32017	A RESOLUTION calling for research, engagement and presentation of information to the Mayor and City Council on the Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) program prior to considering renewal of the program in 2023.	N
2021	Res 32016	A RESOLUTION relating to the University of Washington Husky Stadium Transportation Management Plan; approving a revised framework document that includes performance standards and access management strategies to be included and detailed within in an annual operating plan for certain events at the stadium; and superseding Resolution 27435.	N
2021	Res 32015	A RESOLUTION regarding the impact of Seattle's Urban Renewal program in displacing Black community members from the Central Area; supporting community demands to fund quality affordable social housing to prevent and reverse displacement; and urging the Office of Housing to fund the affordable housing project proposed by New Hope Community Development Institute.	N
2021	Res 32014	A RESOLUTION of intention to establish a 15th Avenue East Business Improvement Area and fix a date and place for a hearing thereon.	N
2021	Res 32013	A RESOLUTION to initiate a 15th Avenue East Business Improvement Area.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2021	Res 32012	A RESOLUTION regarding the voter-proposed City Charter Amendment 29 (Clerk File 321942); authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable the proposed amendment to appear on the November 2, 2021 ballot and in the local voters' pamphlet; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed City Charter amendment on the November 2, 2021 ballot; and providing for publication of the amendment.	N
2021	Res 32011	A RESOLUTION approving the 2021-2026 revision to the Seattle All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.	N
2021	Res 32010	A RESOLUTION identifying proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments to be considered for possible adoption in 2022 and requesting that the Office of Planning and Community Development and the Seattle Planning Commission review and make recommendations about proposed amendments.	N
2021	Res 32009	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of S Hill Street between 21st and 22nd Avenues S as "Clarence Acox Jr. Way."	N
2021	Res 32008	A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of Seattle City Light for the vacation of a portion of Diagonal Way South, west of 4th Avenue South in the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing/Industrial Center of Seattle, according to Chapter 35.79 of the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 15.62 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and Clerk File 314451.	N
2021	Res 32007	A RESOLUTION related to the City Light Department, adopting a 2022-2026 Strategic Plan for the City Light Department and endorsing the associated five-year rate path.	N
2021	Res 32006	A RESOLUTION requesting the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to transfer excess property around the Air Route Surveillance Radar facility at Discovery Park to The City of Seattle for Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) purposes.	N
2021	Res 32005	A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to enact legislation creating a roadmap to citizenship and other legislative priorities to support immigrants and refugees.	Y
2021	Res 32004	A RESOLUTION prioritizing people over the profits of pharmaceutical companies; supporting the production of COVID-19 vaccine around the world; urging President Biden to end U.S. opposition to the Waiver from Certain Provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19 at the World Trade Organization (WTO).	Y
2021	Res 32003	A RESOLUTION retiring introduced and referred Council Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments that have received no further action.	N
2021	Res 32002	A RESOLUTION supporting renewal of King County's Best Starts for Kids Levy.	Y
2021	Res 32001	A RESOLUTION supporting the Uptown neighborhood and requesting that City departments and other parties use the correct name for Uptown.	N
2021	Res 32000	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle Public Utilities; adopting a 2021-2026 Strategic Business Plan for Seattle Public Utilities; and endorsing a three-year rate path and a subsequent, three-year rate forecast to support the Strategic Business Plan Update.	N
2021	Res 31999	A RESOLUTION identifying the City Council's priorities to maximize local use of future federal funding to support COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts.	N
2021	Res 31998	A RESOLUTION urging Mayor Durkan and Governor Inslee to extend the City and State emergency moratoriums on evictions through no earlier than the end of 2021.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2021	Res 31997	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for a hearing on the appeal of Rick Bohrer, Hearing Examiner Case Number CWF-0295, and from the final findings and recommendation report of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751.	N
2021	Res 31996	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for hearings on the appeals of certain appellants, Hearing Examiner Case Numbers CWF-0089, CWF-0176, CWF-0215, CWF-0318, CWF-0375, CWF-0392, CWF-0410, CWF-0411, CWF-0412, CWF-0413, CWF-0414, CWF-0416, CWF-0418, CWF-0420, CWF-0422, CWF-0423, CWF-0425, CWF-0426, CWF-0427, CWF-0429, CWF-0430, CWF-0431, CWF-0432, CWF-0433, CWF-0434, CWF-0435, CWF-0436, CWF-0437, CWF-0438, CWF-0439, CWF-0440, and CWF-0441, and from the final findings and recommendation report of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751.	N
2021	Res 31995	A RESOLUTION adopting the Statements of Legislative Intent for the 2021 Adopted Budget and 2021-2026 Adopted Capital Improvement Program.	N
2021	Res 31994	A RESOLUTION adopting the Seattle City Council 2021 Work Program.	N
2021	Res 31993	A RESOLUTION endorsing the creation by the State of Washington of the Rainier Valley Creative District.	Y
2021	Res 31992	A RESOLUTION identifying the principles and activities characterizing equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.	N
2021	Res 31991	A RESOLUTION establishing a Watch List of large, complex, discrete capital projects that will require enhanced quarterly monitoring reports for the 2021 calendar year.	N
2021	Res 31990	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for hearings on the appeals of certain appellants, Hearing Examiner Case Numbers CWF-0067, CWF-0015, and CWF-0231, from the final findings and recommendation report of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751.	N
2021	Res 31989	A RESOLUTION affirming support for progressive big business taxes to fund essential community needs; urging the Washington State Legislature to enact statewide taxes on big business and the rich without any “preemption” or other ban, limitation, or phasing out of Seattle’s ability to raise revenue through local big business taxes or other progressive revenue sources, and requesting the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate this resolution to Washington State Lawmakers.	N
2021	Res 31988	A RESOLUTION granting conceptual approval to construct, maintain, and operate a private parking area on East Howe Street, east of Fairview Avenue East; as proposed by BSOP 1, LLC, as part of developing a public plaza in unopened right-of-way in the Eastlake neighborhood.	N
2021	Res 31987	A RESOLUTION sponsoring the King County Regional Homelessness Authority’s application for membership to the Association of Washington Cities Risk Management Service Agency.	N
2021	Res 31986	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; acknowledging and approving the 2020 Integrated Resource Plan Progress Report as conforming with the public policy objectives of The City of Seattle and the requirements of the State of Washington; and approving the Progress Report for the biennium September 2018 through August 2020.	N
2021	Res 31985	A RESOLUTION calling on federal government officials to immediately remove U.S. President Donald J. Trump from office by any means permitted by the U.S. Constitution, including impeachment, for violating his oath of office on January 6, 2021 or for committing any other high crimes and misdemeanors.	Y

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2021	Res 31984	A RESOLUTION calling for U.S.-Cuban collaboration to save lives in the fight against COVID-19.	Y
2020	Res 31983	A RESOLUTION expressing the Seattle City Council's solidarity with farmers protesting the passage of farming bills in India and in support of affected members of Seattle's South Asian community.	Y
2020	Res 31982	A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle's 2021 State Legislative Agenda.	N
2020	Res 31981	A RESOLUTION relating to the Seattle Department of Transportation; authorizing the Director to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of The City of Seattle and to legally bind The City of Seattle with respect to certain projects for which the City seeks grant funding assistance managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office	N
2020	Res 31980	A RESOLUTION granting conceptual approval to construct, install, maintain, and operate below-grade private utility lines under and across Roy Street, west of 8th Avenue N; Dexter Avenue N, north of Mercer Street; Roy Street, west of Dexter Avenue N; and the alley north of Mercer Street, west of Dexter Avenue N, south of Roy Street, and east of Aurora Avenue N, as proposed by McKinstry Company LLC.	N
2020	Res 31979	A RESOLUTION relating to the Findings and Recommendation of the Hearing Examiner for The City of Seattle on the Final Assessment Roll for the Waterfront Local Improvement District (LID #6751); remanding certain properties to the City Appraiser for further analysis concerning the valuation of the properties consistent with recommendations of the Initial Report; returning jurisdiction to the Hearing Examiner for final recommendations on the remanded properties; directing the Hearing Examiner to file final findings, recommendations, or decisions on the Final Assessment Roll for the Waterfront LID	N
2020	Res 31978	A RESOLUTION amending Resolution 31334; establishing the City Council's intent to fund the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) in accordance with the January 1, 2020 Actuarial Study.	N
2020	Res 31977	A RESOLUTION approving interest rates set by the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) Board of Administration for 2021.	N
2020	Res 31976	A RESOLUTION modifying financial policies for the Arts and Culture Fund and superseding Resolution 31507.	N
2020	Res 31975	A RESOLUTION authorizing an exception to the level of General Fund support to Seattle Parks and Recreation by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.	N
2020	Res 31974	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for a hearing on the appeal of Robert Wexler, Hearing Examiner Case Number CWF-0149, from the findings and recommendation report of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751, and directing that the City Clerk provide any required notice of the hearing in the manner required by law	N
2020	Res 31973	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for hearings on the appeals of certain appellants, Hearing Examiner Case Numbers CWF-0228, CWF-0063, CWF-0078, CWF-0137, CWF-0154, CWF-0189, CWF-0230, CWF-0338, CWF-0204, CWF-0259, CWF-0301, CWF-0270, CWF-0206, CWF-0094, CWF-0236, CWF-0375, CWF-0314, CWF-0280, CWF-0265, CWF-0243, CWF-0227, CWF-0427, CWF-0426, CWF-0215, CWF-0439, CWF-0438, CWF-0437, CWF-0436, CWF-0435, CWF-0434, CWF-0433, CWF-0432, CWF-0422, CWF-0431, CWF-0430, CWF-0171, CWF-0421, CWF-0429, CWF-0423, CWF-0420, CWF-0412, CWF-0418, CWF-0097, CWF-0417, CWF-0416, CWF-0415, CWF-0414, CWF-0413,	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2020	Res 31972	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for a hearing on the appeal of Eugene and Leah Burrus, Hearing Examiner Case Number CWF-0022, from the findings and recommendation report of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751, and directing that the City Clerk provide any required notice of the hearing in the manner required by law.	N
2020	Res 31971	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; adopting a Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan for the City Light Department that will guide the development of the utility's infrastructure strategy and investment priorities related to the electrification of transportation.	N
2020	Res 31970	A RESOLUTION identifying proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments to be considered for possible adoption in 2021 and requesting that the Office of Planning and Community Development and the Seattle Planning Commission review and make recommendations about proposed amendments.	N
2020	Res 31969	A RESOLUTION setting the time and place for a hearing on the appeal of Lou Bond from the findings and recommendation report of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751, and directing that the City Clerk provide any required notice of the hearing in the manner required by law.	N
2020	Res 31968	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of E Union Street between 34th Avenue and 35th Avenue as "Douglas Q. Barnett Street."	N
2020	Res 31967	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of 28th Avenue Northeast from Northeast 125th Street to Northeast 127th Street as "Hayashi Avenue."	N
2020	Res 31966	A RESOLUTION modifying the City Council's adoption by Resolution 31945 of a modified civil emergency order issued by the Mayor on April 24, 2020, relating to capping restaurant delivery and pick-up commission fees.	N
2020	Res 31965	A RESOLUTION delegating temporary authority to the City Clerk to set the time and place for a hearing on any appeals from the report, findings, recommendation, and decision of the Hearing Examiner on the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751, and directing that the City Clerk provide any required notice of the hearing in the manner required by law.	N
2020	Res 31964	A RESOLUTION sponsoring and requesting the entrance of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority into the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust.	N
2020	Res 31963	A RESOLUTION supporting The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 (H.R. 7120).	Y
2020	Res 31962	A RESOLUTION relating to policing and public safety; establishing the Council's intent to create a civilian-led Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention; identifying actions in 2020 to remove certain functions from the Seattle Police Department and provide funding for a community-led process to inform the structure and function of the new department; requesting modifications to policing practices; requesting reporting to the Council; providing guidance on layoff decisions; and establishing a work program and timeline for creating a new department.	N
2020	Res 31961	A RESOLUTION affirming the rights of members of the press, legal observers, and medical personnel covering the protests against police brutality.	Y

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2020	Res 31960	A RESOLUTION relating to transit funding; declaring The City of Seattle's resolve to work with King County on a future countywide transit measure, pursue progressive revenue options to replace the sales and use tax, and focus on equity and sustainability concerns.	N
2020	Res 31959	A RESOLUTION approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Seattle Central College regarding the establishment, composition, and rules for a Citizens Advisory Committee for preparation of a Major Institution Master Plan for Seattle Central College.	N
2020	Res 31958	A RESOLUTION approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Seattle Pacific University regarding the establishment, composition, and rules for a Citizens Advisory Committee for preparation of a Major Institution Master Plan for Seattle Pacific University.	N
2020	Res 31957	A RESOLUTION establishing spending details by year and program area for the spending plan adopted by the ordinance introduced as Council Bill 119811 that established the authorized uses of the proceeds generated from the payroll expense tax authorized by the ordinance introduced as Council Bill 119810.	N
2020	Res 31956	A RESOLUTION establishing the City Council's goal to implement Internet for All Seattle, a vision of enabling all Seattle residents to access and adopt broadband internet service that is reliable and affordable.	N
2020	Res 31955	A RESOLUTION reaffirming The City of Seattle's support of unbanked money transfer operators and the immigrant communities they serve.	Y
2020	Res 31954	A RESOLUTION relating to the City's annual budget process; stating intent that the City will consider a one-year budget proposal for 2021 only; and superseding Resolution 28885 to the extent inconsistent.	N
2020	Res 31953	A RESOLUTION adopting revised financial policies for the Emergency Fund.	N
2020	Res 31952	A RESOLUTION adopting revised financial policies for the Cumulative Reserve Subfund of the General Fund; and superseding Attachment B to Resolution 31848.	N
2020	Res 31951	A RESOLUTION authorizing an exception to the level of General Fund support to Seattle Parks and Recreation due to exigent economic circumstances, by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.	N
2020	Res 31950	A RESOLUTION relating to the Department of Parks and Recreation; authorizing the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of The City of Seattle and to legally bind The City of Seattle with respect to certain projects for which the City seeks grant funding assistance managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office.	N
2020	Res 31949	A RESOLUTION in support of fair, direct, and federal emergency support to reopen and rebuild local American economies; and stating that a fully funded Seattle is essential to economic recovery.	Y
2020	Res 31948	A RESOLUTION condemning the use of military force in jurisdictions such as The City of Seattle that have not requested and do not intend to request federal interventions.	Y
2020	Res 31947	A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council for 2020 and 2021; allowing for suspension of standing committee meetings for consideration of a Revised 2020 Budget due to the COVID-19 Emergency declared March 3, 2020; and superseding Resolution 31922	N



Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2020	Res 31946	A RESOLUTION related to the response to the Covid-19 public health emergency; requesting that Governor Inslee create a "Washington Worker Relief Fund" to provide economic assistance to undocumented Washingtonians during the Covid-19 pandemic.	Y
2020	Res 31945	A RESOLUTION modifying the April 24, 2020, emergency order relating to capping restaurant delivery and pick-up commission fees.	N
2020	Res 31944	A RESOLUTION of intention to establish a University District Parking and Business Improvement Area and fix a date and place for a hearing thereon.	N
2020	Res 31943	A RESOLUTION to initiate a University District Business Improvement Area.	N
2020	Res 31942	A RESOLUTION adding the West Seattle Bridge emergency closure and repairs to the Watch List of capital projects for enhanced quarterly monitoring established in Resolution 31931.	N
2020	Res 31941	A RESOLUTION establishing a committee to develop recommendations to enhance the capacity of the Office of City Auditor to conduct performance audits.	N
2020	Res 31940	A RESOLUTION calling on Governor Inslee to impose an immediate moratorium on rent payments and urging the Governor to call on federal legislators and the Trump administration to impose an immediate moratorium on rent and mortgage payments; and calling on federal legislators and the Trump administration to impose an immediate moratorium on rent and mortgage payments.	Y
2020	Res 31939	A RESOLUTION in support of the bid by The City of Seattle to host the National League of Cities 2025 City Summit conference.	N
2020	Res 31938	A RESOLUTION modifying the March 14, 2020 emergency order relating to residential evictions.	N
2020	Res 31937	A RESOLUTION modifying the March 3, 2020 Mayoral Proclamation of Civil Emergency related to the spread of COVID-19, novel coronavirus.	N
2020	Res 31936	A RESOLUTION adopting the Statements of Legislative Intent for the 2020 Adopted Budget and 2020-2025 Adopted Capital Improvement Program.	N
2020	Res 31935	A RESOLUTION adopting the Seattle City Council 2020 Work Program.	N
2020	Res 31934	A RESOLUTION supporting the taxation of big businesses in Seattle to fund housing and essential services, urging the Washington State Legislature to oppose any "preemption" or other ban on Seattle's ability to raise revenue through big business taxes or other progressive revenue sources, and requesting the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate this resolution to Washington State lawmakers.	N
2020	Res 31933	A RESOLUTION expanding the requirements for the Summary and Fiscal Note that accompanies new legislation so that it also considers impacts of climate change.	N
2020	Res 31932	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; acknowledging and approving City Light's adoption of a biennial energy conservation target for 2020-2021 and ten-year conservation potential.	N
2020	Res 31931	A RESOLUTION establishing a Watch List of large, complex, discrete capital projects that will require enhanced quarterly monitoring reports for the 2020 calendar year.	N
2020	Res 31930	A RESOLUTION affirming the City's good faith intent to consider raising in the collective bargaining process for the Seattle Police Officer's Guild (SPOG) 2021 contract renewal police accountability proposals that have been identified by the public and the City's police oversight agencies.	N
2020	Res 31928	A RESOLUTION reaffirming Seattle as a welcoming city and condemning all forms of oppression throughout the world.	Y

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2020	Res 31927	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle City Councilmember participation, for 2020 and 2021, on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees; and superseding Resolution 31923.	N
2020	Res 31926	A RESOLUTION reaffirming Seattle as a welcoming city, expressing the Seattle City Council's solidarity with Seattle's South Asian community regardless of religion and caste, and opposing India's National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act.	Y
2020	Res 31925	A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle's support for its local Iranian-American and Iranian-immigrant communities, recognizing the importance of people-to-people diplomacy at the local level, calling for a de-escalation in the conflict and damaging rhetoric between the U.S. and Iran and an end to the attacks on the democratic rights of people with Iranian heritage in Washington State and requesting the Office of Intergovernmental Relations communicate these positions to the Washington State congressional delegation.	Y
2020	Res 31924	A RESOLUTION designating the monthly President Pro Tem of the City Council of The City of Seattle for 2020-2021 and superseding Resolution 31884.	N
2020	Res 31923	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle City Councilmember participation, for 2020 and 2021, on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees; and superseding Resolution 31885.	N
2020	Res 31922	A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council for 2020 and 2021; and superseding Resolution 31883.	N
2019	Res 31921	A RESOLUTION stating the City Council's intent to consider legislation in 2020 that would expand Chapter 14.30 of the Seattle Municipal Code to require employers to provide employees with transit subsidies, and to consult with City of Seattle departments and relevant stakeholders in the development of such legislation and related policies.	N
2019	Res 31920	A RESOLUTION adopting General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; superseding Resolutions 31806 and 31886.	N
2019	Res 31919	A RESOLUTION relating to the Technology Matching Fund program; requesting the Chief Technology Officer to set the program's guidelines, goals, project eligibility and selection criteria, and maximum grant awards, and to execute contracts and encumber funds in support of the program; approving the membership requirements of a review committee to recommend project selection under the program; and requesting the Chief Technology Officer to approve projects under the program after receiving recommendations from the review committee.	N
2019	Res 31918	A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle's 2020 State Legislative Agenda.	N
2019	Res 31917	A RESOLUTION recognizing the importance of our healthcare workers; supporting the unionized workers of SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW exercising their right to strike and withhold their labor.	Y

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31916	A RESOLUTION acknowledging the inherent responsibility of the City to reduce unnecessary justice system involvement; acknowledging that pre-arrest diversion programs, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, represent a harm reduction, evidence-based approach to reduce recidivism and provide for the public safety; and declaring that the City is committed to ensuring that evidence-based, law enforcement-engaged, pre-booking diversion programs, such as LEAD, receive the funding necessary to accept all priority qualifying referrals.	N
2019	Res 31915	A RESOLUTION fixing the date for hearing the final assessment roll for Local Improvement District No. 6751 ("Waterfront LID") to design and construct the Central Waterfront Improvement Program and directing that notice of the hearing be given in the manner required by law.	N
2019	Res 31914	A RESOLUTION adopting a spending plan for the proceeds of the Seattle Transportation Network Company tax to provide support to affordable housing near frequent transit, transportation, and a driver conflict resolution center.	N
2019	Res 31913	A RESOLUTION concerning Washington Referendum Measure No. 88 ("Referendum 88"), proposing voter approval of Initiative Measure No. 1000, and urging Seattle voters to vote "Approved" on Referendum 88 on the November 5, 2019, general election ballot.	Y
2019	Res 31912	A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of Willow Crossing, LLLP for the vacation of a portion of 39th Avenue South, south of South Willow Street in the Othello Residential Urban Village neighborhood area of Seattle, according to Chapter 35.79 of the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 15.62 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and Clerk File 314422.	N
2019	Res 31911	A RESOLUTION opposing Washington Initiative Measure 976 ("I-976") and urging Seattle voters to vote "No" on I-976 on the November 5, 2019, general election ballot.	Y
2019	Res 31910	A RESOLUTION requesting a plan to develop an "Infants at Work" pilot program for eligible City of Seattle employees and their infants.	N
2019	Res 31909	A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Department of Transportation develop a traffic signals policy.	N
2019	Res 31908	A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Department of Transportation develop policy options for the maintenance of existing sidewalks, create a public education program on snow and ice removal responsibilities, and develop a program to enforce snow and ice removal requirements by private property owners.	N
2019	Res 31907	A RESOLUTION in support of the youth-led September 20, 2019 Global Climate Strike; urging Seattle Public Schools to support its students' right to assemble and participate in the Global Climate Strike; and affirming that City employees may request unpaid leave for a day of conscience on September 20, 2019.	N
2019	Res 31906	A RESOLUTION declaring the premises located at 213 South Main Street, Seattle, Washington, commonly known as the Old Cannery Building, to be a neighborhood blight requiring acquisition by the City of Seattle in accordance with RCW 35.80A.010.	N
2019	Res 31905	A RESOLUTION amending the Physical Development Management Plan for Sand Point, as adopted by Resolution 29429 and amended by Resolution 30063, Resolution 31223. and Resolution 31412.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31904	A RESOLUTION relating to the State Route 520, Interstate 5 to Medina Bridge Replacement and High Occupancy Vehicle Project; superseding Resolution 31411 and Section 2 and Section 3 of Resolution 31611; and making recommendations for the future configuration of a second Montlake bascule bridge.	N
2019	Res 31903	A RESOLUTION relating to procurement and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; affirming The City of Seattle's commitment to avoid procuring goods and services from corporations that purchase leases or develop oil fields in the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain.	N
2019	Res 31902	A RESOLUTION declaring the City Council's and the Mayor's intent to consider strategies to protect trees and increase Seattle's tree canopy cover.	N
2019	Res 31900	A RESOLUTION reclaiming the inherent responsibility of the City to protect its most vulnerable populations; acknowledging the disproportionately high rate of violence against women of Indigenous communities; urging City departments to deliver sustainable investments that address the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) crisis, and establish a new, racially appropriate framework of understanding an approach to ending violence against Indigenous women and girls; and calling on the Mayor of Seattle to drive systemic reform that requests and empowers and holds accountable related	N
2019	Res 31899	A RESOLUTION granting conceptual approval to construct, maintain, and operate a below-grade private thermal energy exchange system under and across John Street, east of Boren Avenue North and west of Fairview Avenue North; as proposed by Onni DEU (John Street) LLC.	N
2019	Res 31898	A RESOLUTION requesting that the Seattle Department of Transportation develop a budget proposal for creating on-street bike and e-scooter parking.	N
2019	Res 31897	A RESOLUTION calling for an end to the U.S. government's economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba.	Y
2019	Res 31896	A RESOLUTION identifying proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments to be considered for possible adoption in 2020 and requesting that the Office of Planning and Community Development and the Seattle Planning Commission review and make recommendations about the proposed amendments.	N
2019	Res 31895	A RESOLUTION relating to a Green New Deal for Seattle; establishing goals, identifying actions necessary to meet these goals, affirming the federal Green New Deal resolution, and calling for the federal government to enact policies to advance a Green New Deal.	N
2019	Res 31894	A RESOLUTION relating to the funding of priority projects in the 2019-2024 Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Plan; requesting that the Mayor commit to building out the Bicycle Master Plan and identify funding for priority Bicycle Master Plan projects in the Mayor's 2020 Proposed Budget.	N
2019	Res 31893	A RESOLUTION relating to taxation; stating an intent to adopt legislation imposing a local sales and use tax at the maximum rate authorized to fund investments in affordable and supportive housing.	N
2019	Res 31892	A RESOLUTION expressing concern with the Northwest testing and training proposal of the United States Department of the Navy for Puget Sound, coastal waters from northern California through Washington State, and for Alaska.	Y
2019	Res 31891	A RESOLUTION approving the design for improvements to Victor Steinbrueck Park funded through the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31890	A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle’s commitment to fostering a welcoming community that protects all its residents and declaring its support for providing permanent protection and a path to citizenship for immigrant youth and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients for whom the United States is home.	Y
2019	Res 31889	A RESOLUTION in support of the right to bodily autonomy and the right to access a safe and legal abortion; and affirming The City of Seattle’s commitment to act consistently and proactively in support of those rights.	Y
2019	Res 31888	A RESOLUTION amending Resolution 31857 providing conceptual approval of a Significant Structure Term Permit to Seattle Arena Company, LLC to include the construction of permanent tensioned tie-backs in portions of Thomas Street, east of 1st Avenue North and west of 2nd Avenue North, and the long-term occupation of these permanent tensioned tie-backs in the right-of-way to enable the renovation of KeyArena at the Seattle Center.	N
2019	Res 31887	A RESOLUTION adopting and approving an application for surplus federal property at Fort Lawton, including a redevelopment plan, and authorizing the City of Seattle Office of Housing to forward an application to the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in response to the closure of the Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center.	N
2019	Res 31886	A RESOLUTION revising certain General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; amending Attachment 1 of Resolution 31806, Chapter XI.	N
2019	Res 31885	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle City Councilmember participation, for 2018 and 2019, on King County Committees, Regional Committees, State Committees, and City of Seattle Committees; and superseding Resolution 31792.	N
2019	Res 31884	A RESOLUTION designating the monthly President Pro Tem of the City Council of The City of Seattle for 2018-2019 and superseding Resolution 31790.	N
2019	Res 31883	A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council for 2018 and 2019; and superseding Resolution 31859.	N
2019	Res 31882	A RESOLUTION relating to the 2018 Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy; approving a partnership agreement between The City of Seattle and Seattle School District No. 1.	N
2019	Res 31881	A RESOLUTION relating to the 2018 Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy; approving a partnership agreement between The City of Seattle and the Seattle College District.	N
2019	Res 31880	A RESOLUTION recognizing the efforts of the North Delridge community to prepare an action plan for their community; identifying a work program to implement the North Delridge Action Plan; and identifying proposed amendments to the Delridge Neighborhood Plan in the Comprehensive Plan for consideration in 2020.	N
2019	Res 31879	A RESOLUTION supporting a safe and responsive workplace in The City of Seattle’s Legislative Department and providing guidance to update Legislative Department Policies, including POL-LD-100 on Workplace Expectations.	N
2019	Res 31878	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of 22nd Avenue NW between NW 56th and NW 57th Streets as “Rob Mattson Way.”	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31877	A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of Trinity Trailside, LLC for the vacation of a portion of NE 48th Street between 24th Avenue NE and the Burke-Gilman Trail in the University Community Urban Center neighborhood planning area of Seattle, according to Chapter 35.79 of the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 15.62 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and Clerk File 314380.	N
2019	Res 31876	A RESOLUTION in support of U.S. Senate Bill 726, the Personal Care Products Safety Act.	Y
2019	Res 31875	A RESOLUTION retiring introduced and referred Council Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments that have received no further action.	N
2019	Res 31874	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of University Way NE, from NE 50th Street to NE 52nd Street, as "Chris Curtis Way."	N
2019	Res 31873	A RESOLUTION recognizing the community-led visioning process and the recommendations found in the U District Station Area Mobility Plan, and supporting a pedestrian-focused rebuild of NE 43rd Street.	N
2019	Res 31872	A RESOLUTION approving the proposed budget framework of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission for its fiscal years 2019 through 2023.	N
2019	Res 31871	A RESOLUTION endorsing the final report and recommendations of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force.	Y
2019	Res 31870	A RESOLUTION calling for additional measures by the City and its partners that complement mandatory housing affordability (MHA) implementation to promote livability and equitable development, mitigate displacement, and address challenges and opportunities raised by community members during the MHA public engagement process.	N
2019	Res 31869	A RESOLUTION revising Resolution 31849, which endorsed a budget for The City of Seattle for 2020, by substituting a new Attachment A that corrects technical omissions and errors.	N
2019	Res 31868	A RESOLUTION relating to City Council confirmation and reconfirmation of City department heads; describing the steps that the City Council intends to follow; outlining materials that should be submitted to the City Council prior to and as part of a nomination; describing general criteria that the Council intends to consider when evaluating the search process for an appointment and department head candidates; and superseding Resolution 30962.	N
2019	Res 31867	A RESOLUTION supporting the passage of the Medicare for All Act of 2019.	Y
2019	Res 31866	A RESOLUTION establishing a Watch List of large, complex, discrete capital projects that will require enhanced quarterly monitoring reports for the 2019 calendar year.	N
2019	Res 31865	A RESOLUTION adopting Statements of Legislative Intent for the 2019 Adopted Budget, 2020 Endorsed Budget, and 2019-2024 Adopted Capital Improvement Program.	N
2019	Res 31864	A RESOLUTION adopting the Seattle City Council 2019 Work Program.	N
2019	Res 31863	A RESOLUTION relating to misclassifications of workers as independent contractors when they should be designated as employees; requesting semi-annual updates to the Council starting at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2019 on the work the Office of Labor Standards and Labor Standards Advisory Commission is doing to investigate and correct misclassifications.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31862	A RESOLUTION to delay consideration of the Mayor’s nomination of Jason Johnson to be Director of the Human Services Department until a formal search process can be completed; and to convene a search committee representing all Human Services Department stakeholders to define qualifications, skills, and attributes for an appointee and recommend finalists for appointment.	N
2019	Res 31861	A RESOLUTION recognizing the harms that evictions from housing have on tenants and marginalized communities and describing the City Council’s plan to help avoid and mitigate those harms.	N
2019	Res 31860	A RESOLUTION supporting the Seattle Public Schools’ Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 and urging Seattle voters to vote “Yes” on Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 on the February 12, 2019, special election ballot.	Y
2019	Res 31859	A RESOLUTION relating to committee structure, membership, meeting times, and duties of the standing committees of the Seattle City Council for 2018 and 2019; allowing for temporarily changing the committee meeting times; and superseding Resolution 31789.	N
2019	Res 31858	A RESOLUTION affirming and commending the validity and application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to peace and human dignity everywhere.	Y
2019	Res 31857	A RESOLUTION granting conceptual approval of a Significant Structure Term Permit to Seattle Arena Company, LLC to construct, maintain, and operate a tunnel under and across Thomas Street, east of 1st Avenue North and west of Warren Avenue North, to enable the renovation of KeyArena at the Seattle Center.	N
2019	Res 31856	A RESOLUTION committing to collaborate with the Executive on the transfer of properties that have a mutual and offsetting benefit lease to the organizations currently residing in those facilities no later than March 2019 in circumstances where those organizations have expressed interest in taking ownership of those properties and a commitment to continue to provide services to the community, and have demonstrated the financial capability of maintaining the facility.	N
2019	Res 31855	A RESOLUTION recognizing the service and dedication of the Seattle Police Department’s police officers, detectives, and sergeants; and requesting the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington conduct a judicial review of the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between The City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild.	N
2019	Res 31854	A RESOLUTION rejecting the Federal Administration’s proposed public charge rule change as applied to legal permanent residency applications by immigrants because of the harm to, negative impact on, and chilling effect on immigrant communities’ access to vital services and cost-saving initiatives that keep families healthy and on the path towards economic self-sufficiency and success.	Y
2019	Res 31853	A RESOLUTION establishing enhanced reporting requirements for the City’s Capital Improvement Program projects and establishing the City’s intent to use a stage-gate appropriation process for selected projects.	N
2019	Res 31852	A RESOLUTION setting forth The City of Seattle’s 2019 State Legislative Agenda.	N
2019	Res 31851	A RESOLUTION addressing the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska’s Bristol Bay, and urging the Trump administration to undergo the appropriate environmental review, economic assessment, and consultation with the public to protect the wide-ranging interests in the region, including that of Seattle’s business community.	Y

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31850	A RESOLUTION supporting Washington Initiative Measure 940 and urging Seattle voters to vote "Yes" on Initiative 940 on the November 6, 2018, general election ballot.	Y
2019	Res 31849	A RESOLUTION endorsing a budget and position modifications for The City of Seattle for 2020.	N
2019	Res 31848	A RESOLUTION adopting revised financial policies for the Cumulative Reserve Subfund of the General Fund by amending Exhibit A of Resolution 31083.	N
2019	Res 31847	A RESOLUTION relating to financial policies for the Judgment/Claims Fund; revising certain policies, establishing a new policy, and requesting a ten-year policy review cycle.	N
2019	Res 31846	A RESOLUTION supporting Washington Initiative Measure 1639 and urging Seattle voters to vote "Yes" on Initiative 1639 on the November 6, 2018, general election ballot.	Y
2019	Res 31845	A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of Seattle City Light for the vacation of a portion of Broad Street between Harrison Street and Taylor Avenue North adjacent to Block 66, D.T. Denny's Park Addition to North Seattle, which is the block bounded by Harrison Street, 6th Avenue North, Thomas Street, Taylor Avenue North, and Broad Street in the Uptown Urban Center neighborhood area of Seattle, according to Chapter 35.79 of the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 15.62 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and Clerk File 314387.	N
2019	Res 31844	A RESOLUTION proclaiming that Seattle affirms the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in the wake of increased targeting of local activists.	Y
2019	Res 31843	A RESOLUTION endorsing "Clean Air Clean Energy" Initiative 1631, a statewide initiative to the people that would charge pollution fees on the largest corporate polluters and use the revenue to invest in healthy communities, clean our air and water, promote clean energy, and slow down the impacts of climate change - all under oversight of a public board.	Y
2019	Res 31842	A RESOLUTION relating to the Department of Parks and Recreation; authorizing the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of the City of Seattle and to legally bind the City of Seattle with respect to the Project(s) below for which the City seeks grant funding assistance managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office.	N
2019	Res 31841	A RESOLUTION requesting reports from the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, and Seattle Center identifying transportation projects in the vicinity of the Seattle Center Arena and describing the process for administering the Arena Access Management Plan.	N
2019	Res 31840	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of 2nd Avenue North from Harrison Street to Thomas Street as "Seattle Storm Way."	N
2019	Res 31839	A RESOLUTION making a preliminary decision on the University of Washington 2018 Seattle Campus Master Plan.	N
2019	Res 31838	A RESOLUTION reaffirming City Council's commitment to workers and supporting dairy workers and their Fast for Reconciliation.	Y



Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31837	A RESOLUTION amending and adopting the Policies and Procedures that govern the Reuse and Disposal of real property owned by The City of Seattle not subject to the City Light Department jurisdiction; updating certain portions of the procedures related to property reuse and disposal for affordable housing; and adding provisions regarding the use of proceeds from surplus property disposal.	N
2019	Res 31836	A RESOLUTION designating the Grand Street Commons Redevelopment Opportunity Zone pursuant to RCW 70.105D.150(1) and making findings in support of such designation.	N
2019	Res 31835	A RESOLUTION granting conceptual approval to construct, maintain, and operate below-grade private utility lines under and across South Holgate Street, east of Occidental Avenue South and west of 3rd Avenue South; as proposed by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak").	N
2019	Res 31834	A RESOLUTION expressing The City of Seattle's opposition to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities, including seismic airgun blasting.	Y
2019	Res 31833	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; acknowledging the 2018 Integrated Resource Plan Progress Report as conforming with the public policy objectives of The City of Seattle and the requirements of the State of Washington; and approving the Progress Report for the biennium September 2018 through August 2020.	N
2019	Res 31832	A RESOLUTION denouncing the enormous backlog of citizenship applications before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that is currently preventing over 18,000 immigrants in Seattle from becoming U.S. citizens and voters; and affirming The City of Seattle's recognition of immigrants as New Americans who: are an integral part of Seattle's communities; supports them as they integrate into Seattle and the nation; upholds their right and opportunity to receive fair and equal treatment in their journey to obtain legal status, including citizenship, under the U.S. Constitution, statutes, and regu	Y
2019	Res 31831	A RESOLUTION requesting that the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, the Seattle Fire Department, and the City Budget Office include in the City's contract for Basic Life Support Emergency Services provisions that provide to emergency medical technicians (EMTs) a prevailing wage and benefits comparable to other emergency workers employed in comparable cities and similar sectors in the City of Seattle; and requesting the departments to provide additional analysis, data, and information.	N
2019	Res 31830	A RESOLUTION related to the Move Seattle Levy; establishing principles for developing a revised workplan for Move Seattle Levy projects to ensure transparency, accountability, and thoughtful community outreach.	N
2019	Res 31829	A RESOLUTION related to the City Light Department ("City Light"); adopting revised procedures for the disposition of surplus properties under the jurisdiction of City Light.	N
2019	Res 31828	A RESOLUTION in support of the Seventy-first World Health Assembly resolution on infant and young child feeding, affirming The City of Seattle's recognition of breastfeeding as critical to infant and maternal health.	Y
2019	Res 31827	A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of 15th Avenue South from South Nevada Street to South Columbian Way as "Alan Sugiyama Way."	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31826	A RESOLUTION relating to the Seattle Center City Bike Network; establishing an implementation schedule for Seattle Department of Transportation delivery of capital projects that are elements of the Center City Bike Network; and requesting quarterly status updates to the Chair of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee through 2019.	N
2019	Res 31825	A RESOLUTION relating to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU); amending Resolution 31800; updating the ongoing Customer Review Panel to maintain continuous stakeholder engagement as SPU implements the six-year Strategic Business Plan (Plan) and conducts future Plan updates.	N
2019	RES 31824	A RESOLUTION of intention to establish a SODO Parking and Business Improvement Area and fix a date and place for a hearing thereon.	N
2019	RES 31823	A RESOLUTION to initiate a SODO Parking and Business Improvement Area.	N
2019	Res 31822	A RESOLUTION affirming the human right to family unity and expressing opposition to the Trump Administration's practices separating and/or detaining migrant families seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, and strong concern about the Trump Administration's lack of family reunification plans for over 2,300 children and their parents or guardians and ongoing detention camps at the U.S.-Mexico border in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the applicable international human rights framework.	Y
2019	Res 31821	A RESOLUTION relating to education services; accompanying an ordinance requesting the 2018 Families, Education, Preschool and Promise Levy to replace two expiring levies to fund early learning and preschool, college and K-12 education support, and job readiness, and providing further direction regarding implementation of the programs funded by such levy.	N
2019	Res 31820	A RESOLUTION relating to the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games; and sponsoring the Games.	N
2019	Res 31819	A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; adopting a 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the City Light Department and endorsing a six-year rate path required to support the Strategic Plan.	N
2019	Res 31818	A RESOLUTION retiring introduced and referred Council Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments that have received no further action.	N
2019	Res 31817	A RESOLUTION superseding and replacing the language in Statement of Legislative Intent, 281-1-B-2, adopted in Resolution 31795.	N
2019	Res 31816	A RESOLUTION related to The City of Seattle's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP); adopting the CEMP Introduction, Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Government Plan, and Emergency Support Function #14 - Transition to Recovery, including 2017 revisions.	N
2019	Res 31815	A RESOLUTION urging the University of Washington to swiftly arrive at a fair and equitable contract with its academic student employees.	Y
2019	Res 31814	A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Department of Transportation provide quarterly reporting to City Council on implementation of the One Center City program.	N
2019	Res 31813	A RESOLUTION in support of the bid by The City of Seattle to host the National League of Cities 2024 or 2025 City Summit conference.	N

Year	Record No	Title	Could abstain with proposed change to Council Rules?
2019	Res 31812	A RESOLUTION declaring the intention of the City Council of The City of Seattle to order the construction of the Seattle Central Waterfront Improvement Program, and to create a local improvement district to assess a part of the cost and expense of both carrying out certain of those improvements against the properties specially benefited thereby; notifying all persons who desire to object to such improvements to appear and present their objections; and establishing July 13, 2018, as the date the Council's consideration of the Waterfront Local Improvement District becomes a pending quasi-judicia	N
2019	Res 31811	A RESOLUTION recognizing the value of Equitable Development Agreements and outlining how the agreements may be considered when evaluating the required community engagement processes and public benefit packages associated with street vacations and large development projects that are subject to review by the City Council	N
2019	Res 31810	A RESOLUTION establishing a spending plan for the proceeds generated from a new Progressive Tax on Business to address homelessness and housing affordability authorized by the ordinance introduced as Council Bill 119250.	N
2019	Res 31809	A RESOLUTION adopting revised Street Vacation Policies for the City of Seattle and repealing previous versions of the policies adopted by Resolutions 27527, 28605, 30297, 30702, and 31142.	N
2019	Res 31808	A RESOLUTION relating to the for-hire transportation industry; establishing a work program for the City Council to review the administrative rules and regulations to improve customer service and lower costs to participants, and to explore ways to ensure equal market access to all participants.	N
2019	Res 31807	A RESOLUTION relating to the Seattle Comprehensive Plan; revising the procedures and the criteria for consideration of proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as part of the annual "docket," and repealing Resolutions 31402 and 31117.	N
2019	Res 31806	A RESOLUTION adopting General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; superseding Resolutions 31639 and 31659.	N
2019	Res 31805	A RESOLUTION opposing concealed carry reciprocity.	Y
2019	Res 31804	A RESOLUTION setting the public hearing on the petition of the Washington State Convention Center for the vacation of the alley in Block 33, Heirs of Sarah A. Bell's 2nd Addition; the alley in Block 43, Heirs of Sarah A. Bell's 2nd Addition; the alley in Block 44, Heirs of Sarah A. Bell's 2nd Addition; a subterranean portion of Terry Avenue between Howell Street and Olive Way; and a subterranean portion of Olive Way between 9th Avenue and Boren Avenue, in the Denny Triangle Neighborhood of the Downtown Urban Center area of Seattle, according to Chapter 35.79 of the Revised Code of Washington,	N
2019	Res 31803	A RESOLUTION affirming The City of Seattle's support of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students' demand for gun reform in the wake of the February 14, 2018, Parkland, Florida, massacre that resulted in the death of 17 children and teachers.	Y

April 28, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments  
**From:** Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director  
**Subject:** Resolution 32051: Council Rules and Procedures

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On Thursday, April 28, 2022, the Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee (“Committee”) will discuss and possibly vote on [Resolution \(RES\) 32051](#) that would amend the [General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council](#) (“Rules”).

This memo describes:

- Background information on the Rules;
- RES 32051; and
- A proposed amendment sponsored by Councilmember Pedersen.

### Background

The Rules govern both the Council’s internal management and the procedures available to the public, in conformance with the City Charter and the customary practice of legislative bodies. The Council procedures and rules guide and facilitate Councilmember duties and meeting deliberations as well as provide the public with an understanding of Council functions. In December 2021, consistent with Section XII.B. of the Rules, the Council President and City Clerk conducted a biennial review of the Rules, and the Council subsequently adopted an updated version of the rules via [RES 32029](#) on December 13, 2021.

In February 2022, Council President Juarez and Councilmember Pedersen requested two amendments to the Rules intended to improve the Council's operations. Typically updates to the Rules would require that the City Clerk convene the Council Rules Working Group. Because the proposed changes were relatively straightforward, the working group was not convened and instead Central Staff worked in an ad hoc manner with the City Clerk’s office and the City Attorney’s Office to draft the proposed changes.

### RES 32051

Resolution 32051 would amend the Council Rules to:

- (1) add guidance for the use of a consent calendar at regular City Council meetings;
- (2) clarify the rule allowing councilmembers to abstain from certain resolutions;
- (3) update the order of business at Council meetings; and
- (4) update the formatting, numbering, and table of contents.

## Consent Calendar

In 2022, Council President Juarez introduced the use of a consent calendar on City Council agendas. This allows for the Council to efficiently move through Council business at regularly scheduled Council meetings. Currently, the Rules do not include any guidance on the use of a consent calendar.

The RES would amend Rule III to provide specific guidance on use of a consent calendar at City Council meetings. Agenda items that are placed on the consent calendar are considered as a group and only require a single vote on all items included. This could include administrative items, or items where there is no debate or questions expected from councilmembers. In practice, the following items will typically be placed on the consent calendar: approval of minutes, regular Payment of Claims bill, and items from any of the Council's committees (bills, resolutions, clerk files, and appointments) that were recommend for approval by the Committee with a unanimous vote and no abstentions. In addition, the RES would amend the City Council meeting order of business to place public comment after presentations. This will allow members of the public to provide comments on the consent calendar and regular agenda items before final action.

The proposed rule related to the consent calendar would allow any items proposed for inclusion on the consent calendar to be removed and added to the regular agenda at the request of any councilmember either before final publication of the City Council agenda or during the specific City Council meeting. If amendments are expected on an item voted out of committee that otherwise would meet that criterion for inclusion on the consent agenda, or if the item is something a councilmember would like to speak to at the City Council meeting, the councilmembers can either: (1) notify the Council President and Deputy City Clerks that those items should not be included on the consent calendar before final publication of the City Council agenda, or (2) request an item be pulled during the Council meeting prior to the vote on the consent agenda.

## Abstentions

Included in the amended version of the Rules adopted in December 2021, the Council included a change to allow abstentions on resolutions that, in the sole discretion of the Council President, are not materially related to City government. Councilmember Pedersen requested a modification to this rule to provide clearer direction on when and how a councilmember may abstain from voting on a resolution. The proposed update to the Council Rules would:

1. Relieve the Council President from making the determination on which resolutions a councilmember may abstain from voting on;
2. Allow any councilmember present to abstain from a vote on a resolution if the resolution is related to topics that may be of concern to Seattle residents, but the topics involve jurisdictions or matters not under the City's direct control. Councilmembers would not be permitted to abstain from voting on resolutions related to the administration of City government or related to City regulatory measures; and
3. Require that, when a councilmember wishes to abstain on voting on any resolution, that the councilmember announce that they are invoking their right to abstain pursuant to Council Rule V.A.2.

If any other councilmember present believes that the resolution that their colleague intends to abstain from voting on is related to the administration of City government or related to City regulatory measures, they could raise a point of order and the matter would be decided on following the process outlined in Rule IV.G, Parliamentary Procedures – Point of Order.

Attachment A to the Summary and Fiscal Note for RES 32051 provides a list of 245 resolutions considered by the Council since 2019 and indicates if, based on the proposed change to the Rules, a councilmember could have abstained from voting on the resolution. Based on this review, councilmembers could have abstained from approximately 19 percent of resolutions considered by the Council during that time.

The proposed changes to the rule related to abstentions was developed with the intent to minimize confusion when determining if a councilmember may abstain from voting on any particular resolution. While there will always be some gray areas, based on the review of the 245 resolutions, the proposed rule would, in most cases, make it relatively easy to determine if the resolution is related to the administration of City government or related to City regulatory measures. (Please note that one resolution included on the list, RES 31928, was miscategorized as not being related to City administration or regulatory measures.)

State law does not address abstentions by members of local governing bodies. Therefore, when or if a member may abstain is up to each local body to decide. To understand the local context, staff reviewed the rules for the King County Council and did not find any specific guidance related to abstentions; in addition, staff reviewed the council rules for [Bellevue](#) and [Bellingham](#). Both cities require that councilmembers vote on all actions unless there is a conflict of interest

identified. The Municipal Research and Services Center (MSRC) provides the following examples<sup>1</sup> of other jurisdictions in Washington that have established rules related to abstentions:

- The Issaquah City Council does not permit abstentions unless a councilmember has an obvious conflict of interest or appearance of fairness issue involving the matter. Unless there is such a legal disqualification, the member is excused from voting only by majority vote of the council. Absent a valid disqualification, a member not voting is counted as voting “yes.” See Issaquah Municipal Code [Sec. 2.06.120](#).
- The Poulsbo City Council allows abstentions only where the member is disqualified for a conflict of interest or under the appearance of fairness doctrine. Members may also be granted leave to abstain by the council if they provide a stated reason for their abstention. Absent a valid disqualification, an abstention is counted as a “yes.” If the vote of a disqualified councilmember is necessary for the council to be able to take action, then in some circumstances the councilmember can still vote. See Poulsbo City Council Rules of Procedure, [Rule 5.3](#).
- The Shoreline City Council counts a member’s silence as a “yes” vote. If a member abstains, it shall be recorded as an abstention and not included in the vote tally. See City of Shoreline City Council Rules of Procedure, [Rule 7.16](#).

Prior to the update to the Rules enacted by RES 32029, the City Council required councilmembers to vote on all actions before the City Council except when required to disqualify themselves from voting as required by either the City’s Code of Ethics or the Washington State Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, or when councilmembers determine that they must disqualify themselves from voting to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, unless a majority of those present vote that there is no conflict.

### **Proposed Amendment**

Councilmember Pedersen requested additional changes to the Rules to expand the circumstances under which a councilmember could abstain from voting on a resolution. (See Attachment 1 to this memo for the proposed amendatory language.) The proposed amendment would allow abstention on any resolution that does not directly affect the administration of City government or relate to City regulatory measures and would remove language the sponsor believes is superfluous.

Staff rereviewed the list of 245 resolutions provided in Attachment A to the Summary and Fiscal Note for RES 32051 using the guidance provided in this amendment. There is more gray area in determining if a councilmember could abstain from the vote under the proposed amendatory language compared to the language as introduced. Based on this somewhat cursory review of the 245 resolutions listed in Attachment A to the Summary and Fiscal Note, staff estimates that

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<sup>1</sup>Reference: [MRSC - How Are Abstentions Handled When Counting Votes?](#)

the number of resolutions that a councilmember could abstain from would increase from approximately 19 percent to about 60 percent of resolutions.

If the goal is to allow councilmembers to abstain from voting on more resolutions, this amendment will likely achieve that purpose. If the goal is to simplify the determination of when a councilmember may abstain, this amendment could result in more debate at City Council meetings to make that determination.

### **Next Steps**

If the Committee votes on RES 32051 at its April 28 meeting, the Council President plans to schedule this for final action at the May 17 City Council meeting.

### **Attachments:**

1. Amendment 1 to RES 32051



**Amendment 1 Version 1 to RES 32051**

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Pedersen

Broadening the rule outlining when a councilmember may abstain from voting on a resolution

**Effect:** This amendment would allow abstention on any resolution that does not directly affect the administration of City government or relate to City regulatory measures.

Staff rereviewed the list of 245 resolutions provided in Attachment A to the Summary and Fiscal Note for RES 32051 using the guidance provided in this amendment. There is more gray area in determining if a councilmember could abstain from the vote under the proposed amendatory language compared to the rule as introduced. Based on a somewhat cursory review of the 245 resolutions reviewed for the resolution, staff estimates that the number of resolutions that a councilmember could abstain from would increase from approximately 19 percent to about 60 percent of resolutions.

Amend Section 2 of RES 32051 as follows:

Section 2. Rule V in Attachment 1 of Resolution 32029 is amended as follows:

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\* \* \*

2. Abstentions are not allowed on actions, other than Resolutions ~~((that, in the sole discretion of the Council President, are not materially related to City government))~~ relating to ~~((a policy statement from the City Council on))~~ topics that may be of concern to Seattle residents, but ~~((the topics))~~ involve jurisdictions or matters not under the City’s direct control. Abstentions are not allowed on Resolutions ~~((related to))~~ directly affecting the administration of City government or ~~((related to))~~ City regulatory measures. Any CM wishing to abstain must announce that they are invoking their right to abstain pursuant to Council Rule V.A.2 prior to the final vote on the Resolution. CMs not having abstained or disqualified themselves pursuant to Rule V.A.1 shall vote “Aye” or “No.”

3. All votes shall be recorded by the City Clerk in the Journal of the Proceedings.

\* \* \*