



Legislation Text

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CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION revising certain General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council; amending Attachment 1 of Resolution 31639, Section XI.D.

WHEREAS, by Resolution 31639, 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. Attachment 1 of Resolution 31639, Section XI.D of Chapter XI, Public Participation and Access, of the "General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council," is amended as follows:

* * *

D. Disruptions of Full Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.

1. Disruptions of Full 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 XI.C.2.a or XI.C.3.a, or that are unrelated to the particular proposed Ordinance, Resolution, 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;

~~(e)~~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; or

~~(f)~~h. Behavior that intentionally disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes attendance or participation at a Council or Committee meeting.

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, ~~((the presiding officer shall))~~ 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, ~~((the presiding~~

~~officer~~) any CM may take the following actions:

a. Terminate the individual's comment period and proceed to the next speaker, if any;

b. Direct security staff to assist an individual to the individual's seat; or

c. Direct security staff to remove the individual from the meeting room.

~~(3)~~4. Any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting pursuant to Rule ~~(XI.D.2.e)~~ XI.D.3.c shall be excluded from returning to that same meeting from which the individual was removed ~~(, unless the decision of the presiding officer is overruled by a majority vote of those CMs in attendance)~~.

~~(4)~~5. If an individual fails to comply with the requirements of Rule XI.D.1 over the course of two or more Council and/or committee meetings occurring within a ~~(15)~~ 30 day time period, or over the course of two or more consecutive meetings of the same committee, ~~(the presiding officer)~~ 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 ~~(, unless the decision of the presiding officer is overruled by a majority vote of the CMs in attendance)~~.

a. The ~~(presiding officer)~~ 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 28 calendar day time period, 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 90 or more calendar day time period, 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 ~~((presiding officer))~~ 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.

6. 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 Full Council meeting.

~~((5))~~7. 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 Full Council within five business days after receiving notice of the exclusion. Upon receipt of a written appeal, the Full 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.

~~((6))~~8. 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 prior to or after a Council or committee meeting, including interference with City officials or City staff's preparation for a meeting, may be addressed under the rules cited in this section.

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Section 2. The amendments as stated in Section 1 are incorporated, including updating references to those amendments, 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 _____, 2016, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2016.

President _____ of the City Council

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachment 1: General Rules and Procedures of the City Council (as amended April 2016)