

July 6, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Governance, Accountability, Economic Development Committee
From: Ben Noble, Central Staff Director
Subject: Resolution 32173 – Updating the Council Rules

On July 10th, the Governance, Accountability, and Economic Development Committee (Committee) will discuss Resolution 32173, which would amend the Council Rules and Procedures (Council Rules) in a number of ways. These proposed changes are the result of Council Rule XI.B., which requires a biennial review of the Council Rules to address technical shortcomings identified since the last update, as well as more substantive process changes aimed at improving Council operations. A full description of the proposed changes is presented in Attachment A, and they will be discussed at the upcoming Committee meeting. Additionally, this memorandum provides some background on the process that led to the rule changes reflected in the resolution.

Background

In April of this year, the Council President formed a “Council Rules Review Working Group”. Led by the Clerk’s Office, this group also included representation from Central Staff and the City Attorney’s Office, as well as Lauren Henry, in her role as counsel to the Council, and Council President Nelson and Jeremy Mohn, Chief of Staff to the Council President. During a series of meetings held during April and May, the Working Group developed a set of recommendations regarding both technical and substantive rule changes. These recommendations were circulated to Councilmembers in mid-May, with feedback provided by early June.

With this feedback in hand, the Council President consulted with the Working Group to develop the final set of rule changes embodied in Resolution 32173. As detailed in Attachment A, the proposed changes range from minor technical “fixes” to clarify existing practices and procedures, to more substantive changes designed to improve Council operations. These more substantive changes address issues such as the minimum number of Councilmembers needed to achieve quorum for certain committees and how the Council will receive public comment.

Next Steps

The Committee will have an initial briefing and discussion regarding the proposed rule changes on July 10th. A final vote, including consideration of any Council-proposed amendments, is currently expected at the July 24th Committee meeting.

Attachment:

A. Proposed Rule Changes