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Sanchez, Emilia

Subject: FW: General Council Rules and Procedures Update 2013

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Shaw [shaw@aclu-wa.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 04:41 PM Pacific Standard Time
To: Simmons, Monica M
Cc: Clark, Sally
Subject: RE: General Council Rules and Procedures Update 2013

Dear Ms. Simmons

Thank you for giving the ACLU of Washington the opportunity to provide comments to the proposed changes to the General Council Rules. Please accept this email as our public comment. We are specifically commenting on Section III.C.

We have concerns with the new parts of section III.C regarding enforcement of the disruption rules by exclusion from future public comment periods or exclusion from future council meetings. The draft rule does not require that a person be warned before being ejected from the meeting. It would be better if the rule required the council to warn the person before ordering exclusion. This gives the person an opportunity to correct his or her behavior and continue to participate in council meetings but also places the person on notice that future disruptive behavior will result in exclusion.

We are also concerned that people may be excluded from future public comment periods or council meetings if they fail to comply with the new disruption rules "over the course of multiple council or committee meetings." It is not clear how many violations will trigger the future-exclusion sanction. It would be better if there was greater clarity about how many violations would trigger exclusion, and for what length of time. This change would be consistent with case law stating that exclusions from Council meetings should require actual disruption, rather than predictions about when a person might be disruptive at some point in the future.

Thank you again for reaching out to us. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for clarification.

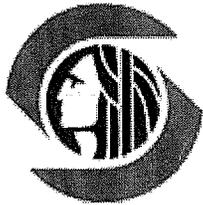
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SOMETIMES HISTORY IS NOW



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From: Simmons, Monica M [<mailto:Monica.Simmons@seattle.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:47 PM
To: Jennifer Shaw
Cc: Clark, Sally
Subject: General Council Rules and Procedures Update 2013



City of Seattle

Office of the City Clerk

November 7, 2013

Greetings-

The Seattle City Council is undergoing a biennial review and revision of the Seattle City Council Rules and Procedures ("Rules"). This time around we are paying special attention to the Rules for public participation during Council meetings.

You have been identified as a party interested in the Rules revisions process, and we invite your input in helping us to make adjustments appropriately. As a courtesy and the first step in an ongoing discussion, we're sending you this notification.

Your comments and/or suggestions will be requested to be submitted no later than December 3. The draft Rules will be available electronically at <http://www.seattle.gov/council/> on November 19, and I encourage you to contact me to discuss the draft Rules as needed. The general public will also have an opportunity, prior to final action by the City Council, to comment on a number to topics including, but not limited to:

- Public participation during City Council meetings;
- Clarity and readability of related documents; and
- Consolidation and reorganization of existing Rules.

The following schedule has been established for the review and update of the Rules:

Public Action(s)	Date(s)
Public Notification & Written Public Comment Period	Begins on November 19 Ends on December 3 at 2 p.m.
Introduction of Rules Resolution	December 2
Public Hearing and Briefing on recommended revised Rules in	December 3 at 2 p.m.

Committee on Economic Resiliency and Regional Relations (CERRR)	
Committee consideration and recommendation (CERRR)	December 12 at 9:30 a.m.
Final consideration/adoption of Rules Resolution by Full Council	December 16 at 2 p.m.

In the event you are unable to attend a meeting, you may view the meeting online at seattlechannel.org or listen in by calling 206-684-8361. Written comments may be submitted to Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk, at:

E-mail:

Monica.Simmons@Seattle.gov

In Person:

600 4th Avenue, Floor 3
Seattle, Washington

Mailing Address:

Office of the City Clerk
PO Box 94728
Seattle, Washington 98124-4728

For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the City Clerk's Office at 206-684-8361.

The Council's Rules are intended to facilitate effective, transparent decision-making. I want to thank you in advance for being engaged in that work with us.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

Monica Martinez Simmons
City Clerk

Sanchez, Emilia**Subject:** FW: Comments RE: Res. 31489 Proposed Rule Changes**Importance:** High**From:** Sarina Forbes [mailto:archhistorian@hotmail.com]**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2013 1:05 PM**To:** sally.clark@seattle.gov; sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov; tim.burgess@seattle.gov; richard.conlin@seattle.gov; jean.godden@seattle.gov; bruce.harrell@seattle.gov; nick.licata@seattle.gov; mike.obrien@seattle.gov; tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov**Subject:** Re: Res. 31489 Proposed Rule Changes to

Dear Members of City Council,

Regarding the revisions of certain City Council rules and procedures and adopting a new set of General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council to supersede those previously adopted in Resolution 31343 and as amended by Resolution 31391:

The news Rules proposed do not serve the public well but rather serve the members of the City Council by limiting speech, engagement with the citizens who they are to serve, and are a dereliction of the duties and responsibilities of the City Council as set forth in Attachment 3: general Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council the Duties and Responsibilities of the Members of City Council include : upholding the public trust, and ...fairness; and being responsive to citizens... <http://clerk.seattle.gov/~ordpics/31391at3.pdf> and abrogates your responsibilities as per the Charter of the City of Seattle ARTICLE XIX, Section 4 in which you subscribed an oath or affirmation that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and of the State of Washington. To wit and at a minimum: the U.S. Constitution First Amendment in part: Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble. The Washington State Constitution ARTICLE I DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, SECTION 2 acknowledges that: The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land. And SECTION 5 that verifies: Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right.

Historically City Council "welcomed comment from citizens...", see related Attachment 1: Public Comment 2006 (<http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s3=31391&s2=&s4=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=RESNY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RESF&p=1&u=%2F%7Epublic%2Fresny.htm&r=1&f=G>)

in 2012 City Council it is noted "welcomes citizen participation and provides opportunities for public comment..." Attachment 2: Public Comment 2012 <http://clerk.seattle.gov/~ordpics/31391at2.pdf>

Now in the proposed set of Rules dated 11-19/2013

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/attachments/PublicDraft2013Rules.pdf> public comment periods are "brief opportunities for members of the public to comment on items on that day's agenda..."

Especially egregious are the changes and additions in Section III Public Participation Sections B and C wherein the rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States and Washington, and

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Sanchez, Emilia

Subject: FW: Comments RE: Res. 31489 Proposed Rule Changes

Importance: High

From: Scott Shock [mailto:ssshock@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 1:31 PM

To: Clark, Sally; Bagshaw, Sally; Burgess, Tim; Conlin, Richard; Godden, Jean; Harrell, Bruce; Licata, Nick; O'Brien, Mike; Rasmussen, Tom

Subject: Comments RE: Res. 31489 Proposed Rule Changes

Importance: High

Dear Council Members,

As a 26-year resident of Seattle, I agree 100% with these comments submitted by Ms. Forbes, appended below. In addition, as a professional engineering consultant with 20 years of experience including public engagement, I strongly encourage you to think more broadly and positively about public engagement. It is your duty to hear from and respond to citizens' needs, not to shut them out. Perhaps if the council did MORE and BETTER public engagement, such as 1) more citizen town halls with OPEN comment periods, and 2) evening council and committee meetings where hard-working citizens could attend and provide comment on issues of importance to them (not just those on the agenda); then you would be better able to connect with the citizens of this city in a mutually respectful way.

I encourage you to create MORE opportunity for the public to speak to you, rather than trying to shut it down and control it. That approach is liable to lead to more negative backlash from disaffected voters.

Best regards,
Scott Shock
Capitol Hill

P.S. Comments submitted from my workplace, because I could not break away to get to the council meeting in person!