



DATE: April 2, 2019

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: City Clerk's Office/Council Policy and Procedures Committee

TITLE: **Resolution Amending City Council Policy A-13, City Council Meetings**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Amending City Council Policy A-13, City Council Meetings, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At its March 25, 2019 meeting, the Council Policy and Procedures Committee (CPPC) considered amendments to Council Policy A-13, City Council Meetings, to allow the Mayor discretion to reduce individual speaking time when there appears to be a large number of speakers and to consider a more formal process for members of the public to yield their time to one speaker representative. This topic is one of two related to Council Policy A-13 that was referred to the CPPC at the City Council Team Building Session on January 28, 2019. The other item, exploring options for collecting and using speaker cards to announce the queue of public speakers, will be scheduled for a future CPPC agenda.

Council Policy A-13, City Council Meetings, states that individual speakers are allowed three (3) minutes to address the Council on agenda items and nonagenda items. The policy provides that if there appears to be 15 or more speakers and the Council might not be able to conclude the scheduled agenda items if the speakers were allotted three (3) minutes, the Mayor may reduce speaking time to no less than two (2) minutes (unless there is an objection by Council by majority vote). In addition, Council Policy A-13 states that a speaker who represents five or more persons may have 10 minutes to address the Council, if the Mayor determines that the extension will reduce the total number of speakers who plan to speak.

The CPPC reviewed Council Policy A-13 and recommended modifications to the policy to:

- Clarify the process for yielding speaker time to add that a speaker who represents five or more persons in attendance *who elect not to speak* may have *up to 10 minutes* to address the Council *if requested in advance through the Mayor or City Clerk*;
- Revise the reduced speaker time to no less than *1.5 minutes* from two (2) minutes if there appears to be a large number of speakers;
- Modify the speaker time for an applicant and/or appellant to *up to 10 minutes* to address the Council from 10 minutes with two (2) minutes of rebuttal *at the conclusion of all speakers*; and
- Add a reference to Government Code Section 54954.3(b)(1), which provides that at least twice the allotted speaking time be provided to a member of the public who utilizes a translator.

In addition, clerical revisions were made to the policy for clarity.

The CPPC recommended policy revisions (noted in redline) are reflected in Exhibit A to the attached Resolution (Attachment 1).

FISCAL IMPACT – None.

ALTERNATIVE

The City Council can modify or decline to accept the CPPC recommendations.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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LN/5/CAM/428-04-02-19CR/18644

Attachment: 1. Resolution