

MOTION

NO. M-26-99

CITY HALL: March 12, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, The City Council’s Rules and Regulations, governing Council’s “officers and employees, the organization of committees, and the transaction of its business,” are established pursuant to Section 3-107(2) of the City’s Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-107(3) of the Charter further authorizes the Council to adopt rules “affecting the public, . . . as are not inconsistent with applicable law and as are necessary to the performance of the functions assigned to it, provided that no such regulations shall become effective until they shall have been published in the official journal at least one week prior to their adoption and shall have been subsequently adopted by the Council;” and

WHEREAS, The Council desires to amend Rule 47 of its Rules and Regulations regarding the retention and oration of submitted written public comment; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That Rule 47 of the Council Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to add a paragraph 10 and restated in its entirety as follows:

Rule 47 – Public Comment

In accordance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, the Council shall provide a reasonable opportunity for public comment before voting on an agenda item. Absent a suspension of the rules, which should occur at the outset of public comment to afford all speakers an equal opportunity to address the Council, the following shall govern public comment on any agenda item before the Council or any committee thereof:

1. The councilmember who is the lead author of the agenda item on which a vote is to be taken shall preside over the consideration of the item and all related public comment. In the case of a Council committee, the presiding officer shall be the chair of the committee or such other councilmember as the chair may designate.
2. For land use items, the councilmember whose district encompasses the item at issue or, for matters affecting multiple districts, the councilmember who initiated the land

use item at issue shall preside over the consideration of the item and all related public comment.

3. Each public speaker shall be limited to two minutes per agenda item, although the presiding councilmember on a particular agenda item may grant additional time for a speaker to respond to questions and to address matters of concern.

4. No item shall exceed 30 minutes of public comment.

5. No person may cede time to another speaker.

6. Each public speaker seeking to address the Council on an agenda item shall personally complete and submit a comment card to the Clerk. No person may reserve speaking time or submit a comment card on behalf of another, except on behalf of a person who is present in Council chambers but otherwise incapable of completing and submitting a comment card.

7. Public comments shall be heard in the order of their submission to the Clerk.

8. Any speaker submitting written documentation shall provide nine copies to the Clerk for their incorporation into the record.

9. No audio or video presentations shall be allowed in connection with any public comment.

10. Any written public comment received by the Clerk or Council central staff electronically, via mail service, hand-delivery, or otherwise, shall be included in the record of the meeting during which the item is considered. Any such comments shall be read aloud only at the direction of the presiding officer.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of Council and the Council Research Officer are directed and granted the flexibility to make all appropriate formatting and numbering changes to the foregoing and existing rules to accommodate these changes, and are directed to update the Council's index of rules and regulations to reflect the foregoing change.

THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, THE RESULT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.