

ORDINANCE NO. _____

1 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2-5 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING
2 TO PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL
3 COMMITTEES.

4 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:
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6 **PART 1.** Subsection (A) of City Code Section 2-5-29 (*Speaker Registration and*
7 *Speaking Time*) is amended to read:

8 (A) For an item that has been considered by a council committee, public comment shall
9 be taken in the same manner as for an item that has not been considered by a
10 council committee [~~up to eight speakers shall be allowed to speak for two minutes~~
11 ~~each, with four speaking slots allowed for speakers in favor and four speaking slots~~
12 ~~allotted for speakers against the item to be assigned on a first come, first serve~~
13 ~~basis. A speaker signed up as neutral counts toward the total of eight speakers~~
14 ~~allowed. Each neutral speaker is counted on an alternating basis toward the four~~
15 ~~speakers allowed in favor and the four speakers allowed against. Separately, any~~
16 ~~further public comment shall be taken at the request of four council members. The~~
17 ~~method in which this comment will be taken is at the discretion of the council. The~~
18 ~~remainder of this section applies only to an agenda item that has not been~~
19 ~~considered by a council committee~~].

20 **PART 2.** City Code Section 2-5-29 (*Speaker Registration and Speaking Time*) is
21 amended by adding a new subsection (I) to read:

22 (I) The total time for public comment on an agenda item may not exceed 90 minutes
23 unless the council votes to extend the time for comment on the item. This
24 subsection does not apply to:

- 25 (1) a public hearing subject to Article 3 of this chapter (*Procedures for Public*
26 *Hearings and Appeals*);
- 27 (2) a public hearing subject to Chapter 25-1, Article 6, Division 2 (*Public Hearing*
28 *Procedures*); or
- 29 (3) a public hearing required by state or federal law.

30 **PART 3.** City Code Section 2-5-107 (*Citizen Participation*) is amended by adding new
31 subsections (J) and (K) to read:

1 (J) The total time for public comment on an agenda item may not exceed 90 minutes
2 unless the committee votes to extend the time for comment on the item. This
3 subsection does not apply to:

4 (1) a public hearing subject to Article 3 of this chapter (*Procedures for Public*
5 *Hearings and Appeals*);

6 (2) a public hearing subject to Chapter 25-1, Article 6, Division 2 (*Public Hearing*
7 *Procedures*); or

8 (3) public hearing required by state or federal law.

9 (K) A person may not register to speak on an item posted as a briefing.

10 **PART 4.** This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2016.

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12 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

13 _____, 2016

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Steve Adler
Mayor

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20 **APPROVED:** _____
21 Anne L. Morgan
22 City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk