

RESOLUTION NO. 68-14

RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL IN CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT COUNCILMEMBERS HAVE TO ASK QUESTIONS DURING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WHEREAS, needlessly lengthy meetings mean that:

- 1) The Council often does not get to items and take care of the City's business,
- 2) Members of the public who cannot stay late at night are deprived of participating;
- 3) Taxpayer's money that could be spent on vital City services is wasted paying consultants and City Staff to sit around for hours on end;
- 4) A total of 15-25 highly paid staff are generally on the payroll during Council meetings;
- 5) Later in the meetings sleep deprivation and burnout contribute to the Council being crabby, argumentative and inefficient; and,

WHEREAS, in spite of the improvements in avoiding needlessly long meetings due to the Council's recent rule changes, the Council is still not finishing all of it items; and,

WHEREAS, the public cannot expect us to agree with them on an item, but they can expect us to at least hear the item; and,

WHEREAS, it is very hard to draw the line between a legitimate question and a statement masquerading as a question, and it is very time consuming to argue about limiting the speaker's "question", and often quicker just to let the inappropriate "question" go; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council adopts the following rules, effective at our next meeting:

- 1) Questions on each item are limited to 5, 30 second questions, and questions during the entire meeting are limited to 12, 30 second questions to staff or the public. Response time is not counted.
- 2) The City Clerk shall keep track of the 30 seconds and of the number of questions asked, and shall advise when a limit is reached.
- 3) On unusually complicated or important issues, Councilmembers can vote on a new round of questions, following the same procedures that govern voting on a new round of 5 minute statements
- 4) Councilmembers can choose to add 5 30 second questions on an item; however, this eliminates one of the Councilmembers extra 5 minutes of time to speak on an item.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond, California at a special meeting thereof held July 30, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: Councilmembers Bates and Boozé.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTENTION: None.

DIANE HOLMES
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 68-14**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting held on July 30, 2014.