

RECEIVED

2020 APR -8 A 8:43

CITY OF FRESNO  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Agenda Item: File ID20-00459

Date: 4/8/2020

Council Meeting Date: 4/9/2020

# FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



## Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Item – ID 20-00459, Consider changes to Council Rules of Procedure

**Content of Supplement: Letter to the City Council from Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, dated April 8, 2020**

### Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.



2020 APR -8 A 8:37

RECEIVED

April 8, 2020

Council President Arias and Councilmembers  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

**RE: Agenda Item 1-A ID20-00459**

Dear Council President Arias and Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are writing in response to agenda item 1-A ID20-00459, which is considering changes to the Council Rules and Procedure. As an organization working alongside communities who have been historically ignored and continue to be overlooked, we want to ensure a transparent accessible democratic process for all. As such, we have a few concerns and recommendations in response to these modifications for the Council to include.

For section 9(a), we understand and appreciate to take appropriate measures to protect the health, safety, and wellness of Fresno's diverse communities and its residents. Similarly, City Staff and elected officials must recognize the difficulty many populations have accessing and using technology. Thus, **we recommend postponing voting on any non-urgent decisions not subject to a statutory deadline where the public may want to participate to wait until the end of a declared emergency to be discussed.** For time-sensitive items that *must* be heard and voted on, translation services will be offered if requested 48 hours in advance, or must be provided for items that may require it. Furthermore, items and materials that will be discussed shall be released and noticed when the agenda is made available .

Second, **we recommend modifying the language in 9(d) to limit public comment to two minutes, while adhering to Ca Gov. Code § 54954.3** requiring local legislative bodies to provide "at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator". Though this provision is already listed in Rule No. 10 subsection(h), we recommend this to be restated here

to make it unequivocally clear for future Council bodies. Lastly, we defer to our letter from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 which provided recommendations for public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic. These recommendations include having City Staff and elected officials work with community leaders, community-based organizations, and other entities working directly with disenfranchised populations. And also to provide ample time and a variety of ways for the public to submit comments prior to a meeting, while also facilitating real-time participation. To view this letter in its entirety, please view Appendix A.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and recommendations. If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to reach out at [gelenes@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:gelenes@leadershipcounsel.org).

Sincerely,

Grecia Elenes  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Kevin Hamilton  
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Nayamin Martinez  
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Kimberly McCoy  
Fresno Building Healthy Communities

Andy Levine  
Faith in the Valley

Catherine Garoupa-White  
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition