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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Brenda Priestly Jackson, Chair of Rules Committee

FROM: Paige H. Johnston, Chief of Legislative Affairs

RE: Quorum for Special Meetings of Rules Committee on Redistricting

DATE: February 1, 2022

As you are aware, per Rule 2.210 (Rules in Committee), *Council Rules*, the presence of a majority of total committee members is required for establishing quorum. That means for a Council committee to take any action at a committee meeting, there needs to be at least four (4) members present.

In addition to the *Council Rules* requirements as to quorum, Section 18.107, *Ordinance Code*, provides that the Rules Committee is required to hold no less than three (3) public hearings, which are advertised and held in accordance with the Council Rules. These special public hearings are considered Rules Committee meetings under the *Ordinance Code* and the *Council Rules*.

The purpose of these specially designated Rules Committee meetings is for the Committee to hear testimony and evidence received at the public hearings. The Rules Committee is not required to take any formal action at these meetings, and arguably should not take any formal action, since the purpose is to receive public input and consider whether modifications should be made to the maps presented in Ordinance 2022-001.

However, the Rules Committee is charged with considering the public input in its eventual deliberations and action on the redistricting ordinance, which will occur during regularly scheduled Rules Committee meetings. As such, it is important for the members of the Rules Committee to make every effort to attend these special public hearings.

In addition, you shared with the Rules Committee that you intended that at each Rules Committee meeting following the noticed special public hearings, there would be designated time to discuss the preceding special public hearings.

Therefore, it is important to maintain quorum at these special public meetings so that the Committee Members can actively participate in hearing and listening to the public input as part of the process.

While the meetings are being live-streamed and recorded, and a Council member who misses a special public hearing could watch the special public meetings prior to the next following Rules Committee meeting, it is the duty of each Council Member to take in the information from the public to be deliberated when the Rules Committee takes action on Ordinance 2022-001 (See Section 18.107(c)).

It is also important to consider that attendance by the Rules Committee members should be encouraged at all special public hearings since there is also an element of accountability and maintaining the integrity of the redistricting process. Members of the public may not feel they are being listened to if they don't see members of the Rules Committee present at the special public meetings.

I trust this information is of assistance. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know.