

PART 5. RULES OF DECORUM

RULE 4.501 ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS

Any member who is unable to attend a Council or committee meeting due to sickness or for a duly authorized reason shall notify the Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services, who shall notify the President, committee chair or Legislative Aide before the meeting convenes. No member present at any meeting of the Council shall absent himself/herself from the meeting without permission from the chair and prior notice given.

RULE 4.502 COUNCIL MEMBERS TO PRESERVE ORDER AND DECORUM

While the Council is in session, the Council Members shall preserve order and decorum, and a Council Member shall neither by conversation nor otherwise delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disturb any Council Member while speaking, or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer.

RULE 4.503 COUNCIL MEMBERS TO OCCUPY REGULAR SEATS

No Council Member shall be allowed to vote on any motion or measure, or gain the privilege of the floor, unless he/she is, at the time he/she is voting or seeking to gain the privilege of the floor, at his/her regular seat which he/she occupies in the Council.

RULE 4.504 MANNER OF SPEAKING

No Council Member at a council meeting or committee meeting shall speak on any question or discuss any matter, nor interrupt another, nor make a motion without first being recognized by the presiding officer, rising (at the council meetings), addressing the presiding officer and obtaining his/her recognition. The presiding officer shall recognize the Council Member who has the floor, and call on each subsequent council member to speak. No Council Member shall be interrupted by another without the consent of the Council Member who has the floor, except by rising to assert a question of order. Each Council Member, in speaking on any matter, shall confine himself/herself to the question, shall not use unbecoming, abusive or unparliamentary language, shall not engage in personal attacks on fellow Council Members or on any speaker before the Council, and shall promote, in the manner and substance of his/her speech, the dignity of, and respect for the Office of City Council and the legislative process.

RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING

Any person, not a Council Member, making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while the Council is in session, shall forthwith be barred from further audience before the Council by the presiding officer in his/her discretion. No demonstrations of approval or disapproval from the audience shall be permitted, and if such demonstrations are made, the audience shall be cleared from the Council Chambers. The presiding officer shall call upon the Sergeant-At-Arms to enforce directions given by the presiding officer for any violation of this Rule.

PART 6. VOTING

RULE 4.601 MAJORITY ACTION

Unless otherwise required by the charter or ordinances of the City or indicated by these Rules, all action by the Council shall be by majority vote of Council Members present, who have not