

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-162

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President Newby

Date of Introduction: March 8, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: March 10, 2022

Type of Action: Council Rules amendment

Bill Summary: The bill amends the Council Rules to strike the contents of Rule 4.505 – Disruption of Meeting – and replace it with a substantially revised rule to clarify types of behavior deemed to be disruptive. “Council meeting” is defined as regular meetings of Council, standing committees, special or select committees, subcommittees or any other public meeting presided over by a Council Member

Background Information: The new section outlines the following types of behaviors deemed to be disruptive of the conduct of a meeting:

- Any form of political campaigning or electioneering regarding a specific candidate or group of candidates in City elections.
- Impeding the orderly progress of the meeting by shouting, yelling, whistling, chanting, singing, dancing, clapping, foot stomping, cheering, jeering, using artificial noise makers or musical instruments, or engaging in any other display of excessive noise, sounds, or movement.
- Displaying or waving signs of any sort, regardless of message.
- Audible noise from cellphones or other electronic devices.
- Consumption of alcohol or controlled substances.
- Making vulgar or offensive remarks or gestures, or using threatening language or gestures, including but not limited to pantomiming discharging a firearm, choking, or throat-cutting.
- Refusing to stop speaking when his or her time has expired or is otherwise directed by the presiding officer to do so.
- Returning to the meeting after having been removed or ejected, or attempting to do so.

Several incidents in recent years have pointed to the need for greater specificity in the definition of “disruptive” behavior that may be appropriately prevented or punished by the presiding officer at a meeting.

Policy Impact Area: City Council meeting operations

Fiscal Impact: None

Analyst: Clements