



James Johnson
City of Long Beach
Councilmember, Seventh District

R-21

Date: December 7, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember James Johnson, Seventh District
Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, Second District
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District

Subject: Allowing Committee Members to Add to Committee Agenda

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the City Attorney prepare an amendment to the Council Rules contained in the Municipal Code to allow all committee members to add items to committee agendas for consideration before their committees.

DISCUSSION

Currently, all Council Members may add items to the agenda for consideration before Council, but only the chair of council committees may do so for committees. This practice discourages the usage of the committee system in Long Beach and prevents the greater consideration and deliberation that more extensive use of the committee system would allow.

Long Beach Municipal Code Section 2.03.060 currently contains the Council Rules pertaining to committees. It states that the Council shall establish the committees, the Mayor shall appoint the committee members and the chairs, and that the chairs call for meetings as needed. However, the code is silent as to who can add items to the agenda of a committee meeting. In the absence of any explicit provision, the historic practice has been to only allow the chair to add agenda items for consideration.

All committee members should be able to add items for consideration before their respective committees, in the same way that all Council Members can currently add items to the agenda to be considered by the whole Council. Such a practice would be more inclusive while encourage substantive discussion and consideration to be conducted at the committee level.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no significant cost for this action.