

October 23, 2018

To: Long Beach City Council Members and Mayor

RE: **Streamlining City Council Meetings, Agenda Item 28 on the Oct. 23 Council Agenda**

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Dear Council Members and Mayor,

We thank Councilmember Supernaw for bringing this item forward.

As community based organizations working closely with residents, we wanted to provide brief comments about this item. We know firsthand both the challenges and potential solutions for City Council accessibility.

In fact, we have been having ongoing conversations and meetings over the course of the last year to explore ways to make City Council meetings more accessible. Long nights, last-minute agenda items with incomplete information, and uncertain timing for important items hinder civic engagement for many community members.

First and foremost, we would like to be included in discussions about how to streamline City Council meetings and make them more accessible for community members.

We also offer the following initial recommendations regarding this agenda item:

- Consider the time at which Council meets, including holding hearings and/or presentations prior to the current meeting's start time of 5:00 pm;
- Consider meeting more than three times per month, perhaps meeting on the last Tuesday of the month and/or more than once a week; and
- Publish agendas with all staff reports and presentations at least one week in advance of Council meetings, limit the number of significant items per Council agenda (e.g., major policy changes, items with high community engagement), and use a time certain for such agenda items.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We look forward to partnering with the City on this important issue. This is an important agenda item that warrants further community engagement and discussion.

Sincerely,

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen, California State University, Long Beach  
Gary Hytrek, California State University, Long Beach  
Susanne Browne, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Victor Sanchez, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy  
Christine Petit, Long Beach Forward  
Steve Gerhardt, Walk Long Beach