

ORD-16 Correspondence – Diana Lejins

From: diana lejins [<mailto:dianalejins@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 6:38 PM
To: Monique DeLaGarza <Monique.DeLaGarza@longbeach.gov>
Cc: diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fw: Council meeting Sep 3, 2019 Agenda #28

Please post to item #16 on the Sep 10, 2019 agenda and distribute to mayor/council.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "diana lejins" <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
To: "CityAttorney@longbeach.gov" <CityAttorney@longbeach.gov>
Cc: "[City Clerk](mailto:CityClerk@longbeach.gov)" <cityclerk@longbeach.gov>, "diana lejins" <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tue, Sep 3, 2019 at 7:40 PM
Subject: Fw: Council meeting Sep 3, 2019 Agenda #28

Dear Mr. Parkin/City Attorney

The following letter was submitted re Item 28 of the Sep 3, 2019 Agenda. Additionally, upon reviewing the "explanation" of the item, I believe it was not explicit enough for the average public to grasp what it was truly about.

According to the Brown Act, 54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words.

While you may have complied with the 20 words, I believe that the overall intent of this provision is to inform the public about what is being considered. You have spent that verbage on technical words that have no import to the average citizen; the crux of it is that this ordinance is seriously attempting to deprive citizens of their rights under the Brown Act:

Item 28: Recommendation to declare ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code by amending and restating Section 2.03.040 and Section 2.03.060, all regarding City Council Meetings, read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading.
(Citywide)

If it was your purpose to discourage public participation in this and the entirety of the ordinance being considered, I am sure that you have succeeded. However, that is not the purpose of the Brown Act. This sunshine law was initiated in order to create more transparency in government and more citizen involvement. You seem to have failed in that understanding.

I have addressed several more items below that concern the Brown Act. A response would be appreciated.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
To: dianalejins@yahoo.com <dianalejins@yahoo.com>; Robert Garcia <Robert.Garcia@longbeach.gov>

ORD-16 Correspondence – Diana Lejins

Cc: Pablo Rubio <Pablo.Rubio@longbeach.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 12:20:51 PM PDT
Subject: RE: Council meeting Sep 3, 2019 Agenda #28

Good Afternoon Mrs. Lejins,

We have received your emails re: Council meeting Sep 3, 2019 Agenda #28.

Best,

Monique De La Garza, CMC

City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk

411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor | Long Beach, CA 90802

Office: 562-570-6981 | Fax: 562-570-6789



From: diana lejins [<mailto:dianalejins@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 11:40 AM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Robert Garcia <Robert.Garcia@longbeach.gov>
Cc: diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Subject: Council meeting Sep 3, 2019 Agenda #28

Dear City Clerk... Please acknowledge receipt, post to this agenda item, and distribute to the mayor and city council.

Thanx

PS. I am also sending a separate email with this letter as a document that you may use in lieu.

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor

I am a taxpaying constituent protective of my rights to address you and your City Council colleagues when the Council agenda includes items that affect my neighborhood, my tax dollars and our city. Regarding Agenda Item 28 at the Sept. 3 City Council meeting,

I ask that you amend the draft ordinance text section C1 to strike the text that "the speakers list for said agenda item will be closed" and replace it with "the Mayor shall inquire if other members of the public wish to speak on the agenda item and call those who wish to do so."

Although I appreciate the digital opportunity to communicate with you, there are no substitutes (including "e-comment" or social networks) for my right to speak at public Council meetings on matters affecting me, my neighborhood and our city. I urge you to make the modest text amendment requested above.

May I remind you that, according to the California State Brown Act, the public does NOT have to register, sign in, nor give any other information in order to attend or participate in a public meeting.

The Public has the **right** to attend and **speak** at noticed public meetings under the **Brown Act**.

As referenced in Gov't Codes §54950 – 54963 (1953): "The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them.

The people in delegating authority do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

The Ralph M. Brown Act of 1953 "guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies," according to a pamphlet published by the California Attorney General's Office in 2003.

I am also asking that you expand the 90 second rule to at least 2 minutes. Not everyone is a polished public speaker. Many who speak at the podium have never done so but feel strongly enough about a particular item to address it. Your message to them is we really don't care about what you have to say, and we'll do everything in our power to infringe on that right. So, please do the right thing and adjust the time. Concurrently, the ADA time should be adjusted to 4 minutes.

Thank you.

Diana Lejins