



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION ITEMS
MEETING DATE	MAY 3, 2021

ITEM:	Speakers at City Council Meetings									
DEPARTMENT:	Administration	BY/DATE: Nicole Tingley, 4/26/21								
CITY STRATEGY: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding a bold "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>										
<table><tr><td>_ Safe Community</td><td>_ Diverse, Welcoming "Small-Town" Feel</td></tr><tr><td>_ Economic Strength</td><td>_ Excellent Housing/Neighborhoods</td></tr><tr><td>_ Equity and Affordability</td><td>_ Strong Infrastructure/Public Services</td></tr><tr><td>_ Opportunities for Play and Learning</td><td>_ Engaged, Multi-Generational, Multi-Cultural Population</td></tr></table>			_ Safe Community	_ Diverse, Welcoming "Small-Town" Feel	_ Economic Strength	_ Excellent Housing/Neighborhoods	_ Equity and Affordability	_ Strong Infrastructure/Public Services	_ Opportunities for Play and Learning	_ Engaged, Multi-Generational, Multi-Cultural Population
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BACKGROUND:

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Forum portion of the meeting has been removed from the agenda in an effort to limit the amount of in-person attendance. Residents have been encouraged to contact the City Council by email or phone outside of a meeting to express their concerns. That being said, throughout this time, there have continued to be an opportunity for speakers for public hearings as required.

Near the start of her term, the Mayor within her authority as Mayor began to ask speakers to state their name and if they are a Columbia Heights resident in place of their address. The reason for this being safety/security concerns.

In anticipation of returning the Community Forum portion to the agenda, City staff wanted to make sure they have clear direction on speakers at City Council meetings and the Community Forum section.

1. When should the Community Forum portion return?
2. Is the location at the end of the agenda still desired?
3. What should speakers state when coming up to the podium?
4. What information should be provided on the speakers form?
5. What should the wording for Community Forum on the agenda be?

Below is both the current community forum wording on the agenda and a new wording option. The difference is currently name and address are required to be both stated and filled out on the form. The new option would require name and connection to Columbia Heights to be stated and filled out on the form.

Current wording on the agenda:

COMMUNITY FORUM

At this time, individuals may address the City Council about any item not included on the regular agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, sign their name and address on the form for the Council Secretary's record, and limit their comments to five (5) minutes. Individuals are asked to state their name for the record. The City Council will listen to brief remarks, ask clarifying questions, and if needed, request staff to

follow up or direct the matter to be added to an upcoming agenda. Generally, the City Council will not take official action on items raised at the Community Forum at the meeting on which they are raised.

New wording option:

COMMUNITY FORUM

At this time, individuals may address the City Council about any item not included on the regular agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their name and connection to Columbia Heights, and limit their comments to five (5) minutes. Speakers are also asked to fill out this information on a form for the Council Secretary's record. The City Council will listen to brief remarks, ask clarifying questions, and if needed, request staff to follow up or direct the matter to be added to an upcoming agenda. Generally, the City Council will not take official action on items raised at the Community Forum at the meeting on which they are raised.