



CITY OF CARSON

POLICY/PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 1:45

ORIGINAL ISSUE:

2/05/92

EFFECTIVE:

2/5/92

CURRENT ISSUE:

4/6/2021

EFFECTIVE:

4/6/2021

SUPERSEDES

Prior versions of this SMP (2/5/92, 1/19/10, 2/21/12, 4/2/13)

SUBJECT

MEETINGS CONVENED BY LESS THAN A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND USE OF CITY STAFF RESOURCES, OR FREE USE OF FACILITIES FOR THE SAME

CATEGORY

I. CITY COUNCIL POLICY

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish operational guidelines and procedures regarding the holding of committee, task force, town hall style, community, or other collective gatherings with constituents, which may consist of: (1) Council members solely, or (2) Council members, other elected officials, and/or members of the public. This policy shall not affect City commissions, committees, or boards created by formal Council action or by ordinance and meetings called therefore in compliance with the Brown Act.

II. GENERAL**Committees Created by City Council Action**

- A. Creation of committees. There are two types of City Council committees recognized by the City: standing committees and ad hoc committees. No City Council committee may consist of more than two members of the Council, although the Council may designate as members of the committee other elected officials and citizens of Carson. All committee members shall be appointed by the Mayor and subject to formal approval by a majority of Councilmembers present and voting at a properly noticed and agendaized public meeting.
- B. Standing committee. A standing committee is one created for an indefinite time period or to address general subjects. Generally, any committee created that does not clearly qualify as an *ad hoc* committee will be a standing committee.
- C. Ad hoc committee. An *ad hoc* committee is one created for a limited period to address a specific subject or issue of a temporary nature.
- D. Brown Act. All standing committees and ad hoc committees shall comply with all provisions of the Brown Act, except that an ad hoc committee comprised solely of two Council members and no other persons are exempted, in accordance with State law.
- E. No exceptions. There are no exceptions to this SMP. All bodies created by formal City Council action which include one or more Council members, whether called a committee, taskforce, special committee, advisory committee, or any other name, shall be considered either a standing committee or *ad hoc* committee for purposes of this SMP.

F. Advisory Groups Not Created by City Council Action and Group, Community, or Town Hall Style Meetings Not Called or Convened in Compliance With the Brown Act. An Individual Councilmember, or two Council members together (but not three or more Council members) may create an informational advisory or other group to discuss City or non-City issues, and may convene town hall style, community, or other collective gatherings, **provided, however**, that the same are subject to the following three rules:

- (1) When the Mayor chooses to convene a citywide Town Hall style meeting, or when a member of City Council chooses to convene a District Town Hall style meeting in their district, the Mayor or member of City Council notifies the City Manager. Staff prepares a staff report to be placed on the Consent Calendar agenda of an upcoming City Council meeting as a receive and file update. The staff report shall include the proposed location, date, time, and the subject matter to be discussed.
- (2) The informational advisory or other group, town hall style meeting, community meeting, or other collective gathering may not suggest or imply it is in any way an official committee or group recognized by the City. (For example, "Carson Council Task Force for the Environment" would be prohibited, but "Council member Jones' Task Force for the Environment" would be permitted because it does not imply it is a City-sanctioned event.)
- (3) City Council District Representatives shall be able to use City resources to hold up to five (5) District Town Hall style meetings per fiscal year. The total number of City Council District Town Hall style meetings and the budget allocation associated with these meetings shall be agreed upon by the City Council on an annual basis or as deemed appropriate. For budgeting purposes, City staff time and materials shall be accounted for in the overall budget for such events, and the City fees for using City-owned spaces shall be waived.

G. Nothing in this Section should be construed to limit the ability of any member of the Council to call or attend any meeting(s) with constituents when no City resources are used.

H. Nothing in this Section should be construed to limit the ability of the Mayor to convene citywide Town Hall style meetings within the budget allocated for this purpose.

III. PROCEDURE

The following applies to committees created by formal action or meetings approved by the Council. It does not apply to informational advisory or other group, town hall style meetings, community meetings, or other collective gatherings held by one or two Council members together, described in Section II(F), above, where no City resources shall be used.

Meetings

- A. The meeting dates/times will be organized by the City Manager or their designee or senior staff member assigned to the committee.
- B. Meeting dates/times will be arranged to accommodate the schedules of the Council member(s) appointed to the committee.
- C. Meeting dates/times and agendas may be scheduled on short notice provided all formal posting and notification requirements of the Brown Act are met, unless the committee is not subject to the Brown Act (see Section II (D), Brown Act).

Committee Agenda Items

- A. Any member of a City Council committee and/or the City Manager may place items on the agenda for consideration by a City Council committee.
- B. Agenda preparation will be completed by the Department Director or senior staff member assigned to the committee and copies will be distributed to the full Council.

Staff Support to Committees

- A. Department Directors or senior staff members will be assigned to the various committees according to specific subject matters at the direction of the City Manager.
- B. The meetings of standing committees shall be recorded on tape and germane minutes taken by the Department Director or senior staff member to the committee. Tapes will not be transcribed unless requested by a Council member or otherwise necessary for conducting City business. Council member requests for verbatim transcription of items considered by any committee will be requested through an item on the City Council agenda.
- C. Approved minutes of standing committees shall be kept on file in the City Clerk's office for five years.

Advertisement and promotion of meetings

If there is any advertisement or promotion of the meeting, including production of flyers, mailers handouts, press releases, emails, etc., staff shall follow CCP 1.1.02 (COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS, FLYERS, HANDOUTS, CEREMONIAL LETTERS FOR DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS) and SMP 1.55 (CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR ISSUANCE OF A PRESS RELEASE).

Reports and/or Recommendations to Council/Agency

- A. As soon as practical following each standing committee meeting, the Department Director or senior staff member will complete an agenda disposition, noting any decisions or recommendations, and forward this disposition to all Council members and others as appropriate. Committee agenda dispositions for each committee held during the previous two weeks will be placed on the City Council agenda (consent) following each meeting.
- B. If a formal report to the Council/Agency is required, and/or if further action is needed by the Council/Agency, then the Department Director or senior staff member will prepare an appropriate agenda item.

IV. EXCEPTION

There shall be no exceptions to this policy except through direct instructions of the City Council at a public meeting in compliance with all notice and agenda requirements of the Brown Act.

V. AUTHORITY

Per City Council action, dated April 6, 2021 Item No. 2021-257.

Sharon Landers
City Manager

Date