

**Rule 4. Public Hearings.**

- 4.1 REGISTERING TO SPEAK. All persons wishing to address Council at a public hearing shall register their intention to do so online, by phone, or in person at the City Council central office. Sign-up closes when Council reconvenes from recess.
- 4.2 TIME LIMITS; EXCEPTIONS. Before the hearing begins, the President shall announce a time limitation of three minutes for individual speakers, and all registered speakers shall strictly adhere to such limitation, with the following exceptions: ~~Exceptions: 1) A speaker may answer questions from Council members outside the three-minute time limit. 2) A speaker may not yield his or her time to another. 3) Additional time may be given to accommodate disability or language translation. 4) A time limit longer or shorter than three minutes per speaker may be established upon the affirmative vote of a majority of members present.~~
- (a) A speaker may answer questions from Council members outside the three-minute time limit.
- (b) Additional time may be given to accommodate disability or language translation.
- (c) A time limit longer or shorter than three minutes per speaker may be established upon the affirmative vote of a majority of members present.
- (d) A speaker may not yield his or her time to another, **except as provided in Rule 4.5(b).**
- (e) An owner and applicant, or their representative, participating in a hearing subject to Rule 4.5(a).
- 4.3 ORDER OF SPEAKERS. In assigning the floor, the President shall alternate between opposing points of view where possible.
- 4.4 REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARINGS. A Council Member shall not take a position on the merits of a bill during committee or during first reading if the bill is the subject of a required public hearing. Nothing in this rule prohibits a member from taking procedural votes such as moving a bill out of Committee of publishing on first reading.
- 4.5 LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS. The following special procedures shall govern for preservation designations.**

(a) STRUCTURE DESIGNATION. Prior to general public comment at the public hearing, the President shall grant the owner and the applicant, or their representatives, time to present their case for or against preservation.

(b) DISTRICT DESIGNATION. Speakers who own property or reside in the district may yield time to allow a sole representative to speak for the owners or residents during the public hearing.