

#14

2072

13-0-0509

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

AN ORDINANCE
BY COUNCIL MEMBER

John M. Shepherd

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-104 (a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA (ENTITLED "REMARKS FROM PUBLIC") SO AS TO ELEMIMATE THE TIME PERIOD THAT A SPEAKER MAY SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; TO WAIVE CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND CODE SECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred *3/4/13*

Referred To: *Comm on Council*

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Referred To _____

COG
 Committee _____
 Date *3/18/13*
 Chair _____
 Action _____
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) _____
 Other _____
 Members _____

 Refer To _____

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Action _____
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) _____
 Other _____
 Members _____

 Refer To _____

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Action _____
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) _____
 Other _____
 Members _____

 Refer To _____

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Action _____
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side) _____
 Other _____
 Members _____

 Refer To _____

AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATED
AND
FILED BY CLERK
PER CHARTER SECTION 2-407
DEC 02 2013

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

- 2nd
- 1st & 2nd
- 3rd
- Readings
- Consent
- V Vote
- RC Vote

CERTIFIED
 DEC 02 2013

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

[Signature]

CERTIFIED
 DEC 02 2013

Rhonda Duglin Johnson
MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION

AN ORDINANCE
BY COUNCIL MEMBER

John M. Steyer

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-104 (a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA (ENTITLED "REMARKS FROM PUBLIC") SO AS TO ELEMIMATE THE TIME PERIOD THAT A SPEAKER MAY SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; TO WAIVE CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND CODE SECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, some council members are opposed to placing time limits on speakers during the public comment portion of committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, an attempt has been made to bring consistency to the public comment process before committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA as follows:

Section 1. Section 2-104 (a) of the code of ordinances of the City of Atlanta (entitled "remarks from public") which currently provides as follows:

Sec. 2-104. - Remarks from public.

(a)

The council shall only hear remarks from those members of the public who sign up to speak prior to the convening of each regularly scheduled Council meeting. The sign-up sheets or speaker cards will be made available to the public, by the municipal clerk, at the entrance of the Council Chambers or other authorized meeting location 30 minutes prior to the scheduled council meeting time; and sign up will terminate upon the convening of each meeting with the lists or cards delivered to the presiding officer at that time. The time frame for public remarks shall not exceed 60 minutes, with each person being allowed to speak a maximum of two minutes. Any member of the public may speak to the council on matters of public concern, including matters of general policy, efficiency and the conduct of city government, provided that the president may rule out of order personal, abusive or indecorous language, or matters that the city has no purview over. No person shall cede his/her time to another person who has not previously signed up to

speak. However, a speaker may yield his/her time to another speaker on the list; provided that the person to whom time has been yielded shall be placed at the end of the speakers' list. Such yielded time shall be heard only during the 60-minute remarks by the public period. Under no circumstances shall any person to whom time has been yielded be allowed to speak during any extensions of the initial remarks by the public period.

Is hereby amended by eliminating the time period that a speaker may speak at city council meetings, so that when amended, said code section shall provide as follows:

(a)

The council shall only hear remarks from those members of the public who sign up to speak prior to the convening of each regularly scheduled Council meeting. The sign-up sheets or speaker cards will be made available to the public, by the municipal clerk, at the entrance of the Council Chambers or other authorized meeting location 30 minutes prior to the scheduled council meeting time; and sign up will terminate upon the convening of each meeting with the lists or cards delivered to the presiding officer at that time. The time frame for public remarks shall not exceed 60 minutes. Any member of the public may speak to the council on matters of public concern, including matters of general policy, efficiency and the conduct of city government, provided that the president may rule out of order personal, abusive or indecorous language, or matters that the city has no purview over. No person shall cede his/her time to another person who has not previously signed up to speak. However, a speaker may yield his/her time to another speaker on the list; provided that the person to whom time has been yielded may be placed at the end of the speakers' list. Such yielded time shall be heard only during the 60-minute remarks by the public period. Under no circumstances shall any person to whom time has been yielded be allowed to speak during any extensions of the initial remarks by the public period.

Section 3: All code sections, ordinances, and parts of code sections and ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived for the sole purpose of this ordinance only and shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.