CITY OF LONG BEACH

City Manager
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May 12, 2026

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to receive and file an update on proposed changes to the City Council order of business due to Senate Bill 707; and,

Request City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC), Title 2, Chapter 2.03 based on the proposed modifications outlined in this City Council letter and the May 1, 2026 staff memorandum regarding those proposed modifications, including but not limited to, adjusting the City Council meeting start time, public comment process, and supplemental agenda timeline. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

On October 21, 2025, the Government Operations & Efficiency Committee (GOE Committee) received a presentation outlining potential changes to the City Council meeting order of business aimed at improving efficiency and increasing public participation. On November 18, 2025, the City Council directed the City Manager and City Clerk to further evaluate these proposals and return with recommendations, including consideration of forthcoming requirements under Senate Bill 707 (SB 707). The Council also directed staff to recirculate a community survey and engage the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD) to gather additional input.

In response, staff conducted expanded outreach, including a multilingual community survey and a presentation to CACoD, and provided staff analysis of the GOE Committee proposal in a memorandum released on May 1, 2026 (attached). The memorandum also outlined the requirements of SB 707, which takes effect July 1, 2026. This legislation significantly expands requirements for public participation in local government meetings, including remote access, equal options for remote and in-person speakers, enhanced accessibility and language requirements, and new procedures for addressing technical disruptions.

Changes required by SB 707 increase participation opportunities and reduce barriers related to physical attendance, while also necessitating updates to meeting procedures and order of business to ensure compliance and effective implementation. Taken together, the community and survey feedback, various policy considerations, and SB 707 requirements support a more structured, predictable, and accessible meeting format that leverages expanded remote participation while improving overall meeting efficiency. The attached memorandum outlines several proposed changes to the order of business to effectively implement SB 707, streamline

meetings, and achieve greater public input.

This item is intended to provide a forum for Mayor and City Council to deliberate the proposed staff recommendations presented in the memorandum and provide direction on what changes to the order of business are desired. Based on staff's analysis, staff recommend that the City Council consider the following Municipal Code amendments:

- Amend the regular City Council meeting start time to 4:00 p.m.
- Establish a single public comment period at the beginning of City Council meetings, following the call to order, roll call, pledge of allegiance, and ceremonials and presentations.
    - Limit to a maximum of three minutes total per speaker, per meeting: up to one minute for non-agenda items, and up to two minutes for agenda items.
    - Close speaker sign-ups at the start of the public comment period.
    - Speakers would need to specify which items they wish to speak on when they sign up for public comment, and the Clerk would time speakers separately for non-agenda (up to one minute) and agenda items (up to two minutes), for a maximum of three minutes total.
    - Cap the total public comment period at 90 minutes.
    - Reiterate the option to submit written comments in lieu of in-person or remote participation.
    - Clearly define and standardize timing, sign-up procedures, and participation rules for both in-person and remote speakers, to ensure consistent and equitable access.
    - Allow the Mayor, as presiding officer, limited discretion to extend time limits or reopen public comment in exceptional circumstances.
- Move the supplemental agenda publication to Thursday.

Following Mayor and City Council direction on these proposed changes, Attorney will return with a first reading of an ordinance for further consideration.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Millicent Usoro on April 30, 2026, and by Budget Management Officer, Nader Kaamoush on April 29, 2026.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this item is requested on May 12, 2026, to allow for a potential ordinance to return to Council and, if approved, go into effect in July 2026, when SB 707 takes effect.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact with this recommendation to receive input on proposed changes to the City Council meeting order of business. Recommended changes could result in earlier

end time for City Council meetings; however, the fiscal impact of possible operational staff savings cannot be quantified at this time. It is anticipated that additional resources will be needed to statisify Senate Bill 707. Staff will review appropriations needed as part of the FY 27 budget development process. This request is anticipated to have a minimal impact on staffing. There is currently no known job impact to this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Modica
City Manager

ATTACHMENT – MAY 1, 2026 TFF MEMORANDUM