

ORDINANCE NO. 20070125-008

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-5-29 OF THE CITY CODE
RELATING TO SPEAKER REGISTRATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Section 2-5-29 of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 2-5-29 SPEAKER REGISTRATION AND SPEAKING TIME.

- (A) A person who intends to testify at a council meeting on an agenda item or at a public hearing shall register on the electronic signup system located in the City Hall lobby ~~[deliver a registration card to the city clerk on the form prescribed by the city clerk]~~.
- (B) The person may register ~~[deliver the card to the city clerk]~~ at any time after 12:00 noon on the Monday preceding a council meeting, when the city clerk opens ~~[posts]~~ the agenda for the meeting and before the last person who has registered to testify on the item has begun to testify.
- (C) Except as provided in Section 2-5-25 (*Consent Agenda*), a person is not limited in the number of items on which the person may register to testify.
- (D) The presiding officer should grant a person three minutes to address the council, unless:
 - (1) the council rules otherwise; or
 - (2) the presiding officer exercises the officer's authority under Section 2-5-23 (*Rules of Order*) to limit or reduce the speaker's time.
- (E) A person may donate the person's speaking time on an agenda item or at a public hearing to another speaker if the person donating the time is present when the speaker begins to address the council.
- (F) A speaker may not use the time of more than four other registered speakers on an agenda item or at a public hearing.
- (G) Except as required by state law, the council may limit the number of speakers or the length of testimony at the council's discretion. If the council limits testimony under this subsection, the electronic registration ~~[card]~~ of each non-speaking person shall be made part of the public hearing record.

(H) A person may not register to speak on an item posted as a briefing.

PART 2. This ordinance takes effect on February 5, 2007.

PASSED AND APPROVED

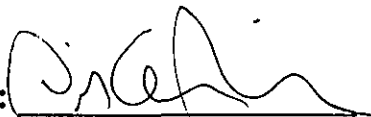
_____, January 25, 2007

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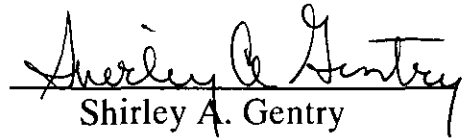
Will Wynn
Mayor

APPROVED:



David Allan Smith
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk