

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

# AGENDA



Thursday, January 25, 2007

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**City Clerk**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**ITEM No 8**

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**Subject** Approve an ordinance amending Section 2-5-29 of the City Code relating to speaker registration for council meetings

**Additional Backup  
Material**

(click to open)

**Ordinance**

**For More Information** Rosemary Ybarra, 974-2499

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This change will be consistent with how citizens register to speak at Council meetings using the electronic registration system

ORDINANCE NO.

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

1 testimony under this subsection, the electronic registration [eard] of each non-  
2 speaking person shall be made part of the public hearing record

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

4 **PART 2.** This ordinance takes effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

5 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

6  
7 §  
8 §  
9 \_\_\_\_\_, 2007 § \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Will Wynn  
11 Mayor  
12  
13

14 **APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
15 David Allan Smith  
16 City Attorney  
17  
18  
19

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley A Gentry  
City Clerk