

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

# **Rules of Organization & Procedure**

**Council Period 21**

Adopted: January 20, 2015

A RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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To provide rules of organization and procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole during Council Period 21.

RESOLVED, BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Committee of the Whole Resolution of 2015".

Sec. 2. The document entitled "Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole for Council Period 21", attached and made a part of this resolution, shall be the Rules of the Committee of the Whole.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



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Chairman  
Committee of the Whole

January 20, 2015

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Adopted

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## ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

**Sec.**

### **101. DEFINITIONS—COUNCIL DEFINITIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

For the purposes of these rules, the definitions in section 101 of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia, Council Period 21 are incorporated by reference.

### **102. DEFINITIONS—SPECIAL**

For the purpose of these rules, the term:

- (1) “Committee” means the Committee of the Whole;
- (2) “committee” means any other committee of the Council; and
- (3) “Committee Clerk” means the Director of the Committee of the Whole; and
- (4) “Council Rules” means the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia, Council Period 21.

**ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION**

**Sec.**

**201. CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman of the Council shall be the presiding officer of the Committee.

**202. CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE**

The Chairman Pro Tempore of the Council shall act in the place of the Chairman when the Chairman is absent.

**203. STAFF**

(a) The Committee Clerk shall be the chief administrative officer of the Committee. The Committee Clerk shall keep records of meetings and Committee business, and shall perform other Committee functions assigned by the Chairman or the Committee.

(b) Committee staff shall perform duties assigned by the Clerk, the Chairman, or the Committee.

(c) The Chairman shall appoint the Committee staff with the approval of the Committee. Removal or termination of staff shall be decided by the Chairman or the Committee. Remuneration of the Committee's staff shall be decided by the Chairman, acting within the Committee's budget. Assignments to the staff shall be decided by the Chairman of the Committee.

## ARTICLE III: PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS

Sec.

### **301. REGULAR MEETINGS**

(a) Except during periods of Council recess, the Committee shall meet regularly, at 10:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, to discuss matters within the purview of the Committee. When the day for a scheduled Committee meeting falls on a day designated by law as a legal holiday or on a day when the Council is closed for business, the meeting shall be held at the same time on the next succeeding day not a legal holiday. The Chairman may designate another day or hour for a meeting at the next legislative meeting prior to a meeting of the Committee or by written notice to each Member at least 24 hours before the regularly scheduled meeting.

(b) All regular meetings of the Committee shall be held in the Council Chamber, Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., unless another place is designated by a majority of the Committee either in a meeting or in writing circulated to all Members no less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

(c) The Chairman may, at a Committee meeting, recess that meeting to another time, day, or place, or may reschedule any future Committee meeting to another time, day, or place.

(d) The Chairman, upon notification to each Member, may cancel a future regularly scheduled Committee meeting. The Committee Clerk shall notify each member of a cancellation of a regularly scheduled meeting by providing at least 24 hours' notice to all Councilmembers and the Secretary.

### **302. ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

(a) The Chairman may call additional meetings of the Committee.

(b) A majority of the members may request that the Chairman call a special meeting of the Committee. The request must be in writing and filed in the Office of the Committee Clerk. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the Committee Clerk shall notify the Chairman and other Members of the filing request. If within 24 hours after the request is filed the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within 72 hours after the request is filed, a majority of the Members may file with the Committee Clerk their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date, hour, place, and agenda of the special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Committee Clerk shall notify all members of the Committee as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Whenever an additional or special Committee meeting is called, the Committee Clerk shall notify each member in writing not less than 24 hours prior to the additional or special

meeting, unless 7 members agree in writing to a shorter notice. The notice shall state the date, hour, and place of the meeting. The Committee Clerk shall contact the Office of the Secretary to ensure that the meeting does not conflict with previously scheduled meetings of another committee. Additional or special meetings to consider emergency matters may be called upon shorter notice if at least 4 of the Members agree in writing to the shorter notice. No matters shall be considered at any additional or special meeting except those stated in the request and notification.

(d) The Chairperson may cancel an additional meeting with at least 24 hours of notice to each Member and the Secretary.

### **303. ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Committee shall take up business for regular meetings of the Committee in the following order:

- (1) Call to Order;
- (2) Ascertainment of the presence of a quorum by the Chairperson;
- (3) Presentation of Ceremonial Resolution, if any, pursuant to Council Rule 427;
- (4) Reading and approval of the written minutes of the previous Committee meeting (if any);
- (5) Secretary's report on the introduction of bills, proposed resolutions, and other measures filed with that office, introduction by members of new bills and proposed resolutions by reading the short title, and Secretary's report on the filing of measures reported from other committees and from the Committee. The formal reading of either or both reports must be waived by unanimous consent pursuant to section 404 of the Council Rules;
- (6) Consideration of proposed reports on and mark-up of pending measures assigned to the Committee under section 231 of the Council Rules; this agenda category may be divided into a consent and non-consent agenda;
- (7) Consideration of proposed reports on and mark-up of measures reported from subcommittees of the Committee;
- (8) Consideration of reported measures from other committees as provided in section 231(c) of the Council Rules;
- (9) Review of the agenda for the next regular legislative meeting of the Council;
- (10) Official communications from the Mayor and other governmental agencies;

(11) Other business; and

(12) Adjournment.

### **304. ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

The Committee shall take up business in the following order at an additional or special meeting:

- (1) Call to order at the time and place set forth in the notice of the meeting;
- (2) Ascertainment of the presence of a quorum; and
- (3) If a quorum is present, consideration of business as set forth in the meeting notice.

### **305. CONSENT AGENDA**

At the Chairman's discretion, the Chairman may prepare a consent agenda for measures at a regular or additional meeting that the Chairman believes will be adopted by unanimous vote. Any member may strike a measure from the consent agenda prior to the vote on the consent agenda. Measures removed from the consent agenda shall be considered as provided in sections 303 and 304. Approval of the consent agenda requires the unanimous approval of all measures on the consent agenda. If a member desires for his or her vote to be recorded on a particular measure, the measure shall not be included on the consent agenda.

### **306. PROCEEDING OUT OF ORDER**

The Chairman may, without objection or upon the vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, take up any item of business out of order.

### **307. RECOGNITION OF NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Chairman may recognize members of the public or employees of the District government where the participation of those persons would, in the judgment of the Chairman, enhance the understanding of the matter under consideration by the Committee.

### **308. RECORDS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

A recording of each Committee meeting, hearing, and roundtable shall be produced and

maintained by the Office of the Secretary. The Chairman may also direct that minutes of meetings, hearings, or roundtables be taken. If minutes are taken, the minutes shall be filed with the Office of the Secretary upon approval by the Committee.

### **309. CIRCULATION OF MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE**

(a) Not less than 24 hours prior to the date of a meeting of the Committee, unless at least 7 members of the Committee agree to a shorter notice, the Committee shall circulate to all members:

- (1) A draft agenda, which shall include the date, hour and place of the meeting;
- (2) Draft measures assigned to the Committee under the Council Rules to be marked up by the Committee;
- (3) Measures reported by other committees on the Committee's agenda for consideration; and
- (4) Any other documents relating to the agenda.

(b) Circulation required under subsection (a) may be done electronically, except that each Councilmember and Council Officer shall be provided with one hard copy folder of materials. Additional hard copies may be obtained by request.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this subsection, circulation of a fiscal year budget request act and accompanying budget support act may be less than 24 hours, provided that the Chairman and Budget Director have made a good faith effort to meet the 24 hours notice requirement.

## **ARTICLE IV: CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES IN THE COMMITTEE**

**Sec.**

### **401. APPROVAL OF MEASURES ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE**

(a) No measure or recommendation on matters assigned to the Committee under section 231(a) and 405 of the Council Rules may be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Members was actually present at the time of approval by the Committee.

(b) Each bill or resolution assigned to the Committee shall be accompanied by a draft report at the time of consideration by the Committee. Reports shall comply with Rule 803 of the Council rules.

(c) An amendment that is moved orally during a Committee meeting shall be reduced to writing and read by the Chairman, Committee Clerk, or other staff of the Committee prior to voting thereon, and made available for public inspection as soon as practicable.

### **402. ADDITIONAL VIEWS**

If, at the time of the Committee's approval of any measure assigned under sections 231(a) and 405 of the Council Rules, any Member gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that Member shall file with the Committee Clerk, in not less than 5 calendar days (or the first business day after the 5 calendar days if the last of the calendar days falls on a weekend, holiday, or day when the Council is closed, the views in writing and signed by the Member. Additional views shall be included in the report of the Committee on that measure filed with the Secretary.

### **403. FILING OF MEASURES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

(a) Before consideration by the Committee, reports on measures from other committees must be filed with the Secretary. Before transmitting a report to the Committee, the Secretary shall ensure that the measure and report comply with the Council Rules, that they are legible for reproduction and record preservation, that numbered pages and attachments are complete, and that the report has been signed by the chairperson of the committee reporting the measure.

(b) The filing deadline for Committee consideration of measures reported by other committees under section 231(c) of the Council Rules shall be the close of business on the fourth business day preceding a meeting of the Committee.

(c) A notice of a request for a waiver of subsection (b) of this section shall be filed with the Committee of the Whole and the Secretary, and circulated to the Chairman, all Committee

members, Council officers, and Committee Clerk no later than noon on the third business day before the meeting at which a measure is to be considered.

(d) If the committee report for a measure is not filed before noon on the third business day before the meeting at which the measure is to be considered, a motion to waive subsection (b) of this section may not be placed on the Committee agenda.

(e) Approval of a motion to waive subsection (b) of this section shall require a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

(f) If section 231(c) of the Council Rules is waived by the Council, the Committee of the Whole determinations required by subsection (a) of this section and by section 231(c), including legal sufficiency, record completeness, and fiscal impact statement compliance, shall be ascertained by the Council prior to the Committee's placing of the measure on a legislative agenda.

#### **404. MEASURES REPORTED FROM SUBCOMMITTEES.**

(a) Upon adoption of a bill or resolution by a subcommittee of the Committee, the subcommittee shall file with the Committee Clerk and the Secretary a draft report and draft committee print for consideration by the Committee.

(b) The filing deadline for Committee consideration of a measure reported from a subcommittee of the Committee shall be no later than 10 business days preceding a regular meeting of the Committee.

(c) The notice of a request for a waiver of subsection (b) of this section shall be circulated to the Chairman, all Committee members and Council officers no later than noon on the third business day before the meeting at which a measure is to be considered.

(d) Each reported measure that is filed in a timely manner by a subcommittee of the Committee may be placed by the Chairman on the agenda of the next regular Committee meeting for the purposes of: presentation by the subcommittee chairperson; explanation; debating amendments; ascertaining compliance with section 231(c) of the Council Rules; and adoption of the print and report by the Committee.

(e) Upon adoption of a measure from a subcommittee by the Committee, a final report shall be filed with the Secretary which shall be considered a report on the measure from the Committee for purposes of section 801 of the Council Rules.

#### **405. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REPORTED MEASURES IN COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Secretary shall prepare a monthly report of the filings of measures reported from other

committees and from the Committee. Such report shall include measures filed as of noon on the third day before a regular meeting of the Committee. Where appropriate, the Secretary's report of committee and Committee filings shall indicate the date that these measures will be considered by the Committee and the Council. The Secretary shall transmit this report to the Committee of the Whole staff not less than 24 hours before a regular meeting of the Committee.

#### **406. MEASURES NOT SUBJECT TO DEBATE**

Measures reported from other committees shall not be debated by the Committee. The Committee's consideration of measures reported from other committees is limited to presentation and explanation. The Committee may accept or conditionally accept any reported measure for inclusion on the agenda of a subsequent legislative meeting.

#### **407. COMMENTS**

(a) When comments on a measure are filed with the Secretary, the committee or Committee filing the comments shall provide a copy of the comments to the committee or Committee having primary responsibility for the measure.

(b) The failure of a committee or of the Committee, to which a measure was referred for comment only, to file comments shall not delay Committee consideration of the measure.

#### **408. ACCEPTANCE OF MEASURES**

(a) Following presentations of, and comments on, measures reported from other committees and by the Committee, measures found by the Committee to satisfy section 231(c) of the Council Rules shall be placed on the agenda for first reading at a legislative meeting of the Council, unless other action is taken such as to table, postpone, recommit, or re-refer the measure..

(b) Pursuant to Council Rule 231(b), the Chairman may not hold a measure in the Committee of the Whole that has been properly reported by another committee unless other action is taken on the measure as provided in subsection (a).

(c) Without objection, such measures, along with any written proposed amendments to such measures that have been circulated to the Committee at the Committee meeting by any member may be placed on the consent agenda for first reading at a subsequent legislative meeting of the Council.

#### **409. CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF MEASURES**

The Committee, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members present and voting, may condition Council consideration of a measure upon receipt by the Members prior to the next

regular or additional legislative meeting of a proposed amendment or substituted report designed to correct or respond to technical, legal, or other deficiencies, as may be identified by the Committee.

#### **410. PREPARATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE MEETING AGENDA**

Following consideration of reported measures by the Committee, the Chairman shall schedule for 1<sup>st</sup> reading those measures accepted or conditionally accepted for inclusion on the legislative agenda for the next regular or additional legislative meeting of the Council or without objection, for inclusion on a subsequent regular or additional legislative meeting of the Council.

## ARTICLE V: PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS AND ROUNDTABLES

Sec.

### **501. HEARING REQUIREMENTS**

(a) All hearings or roundtables of the Committee shall be called by the Chairman or his designee.

(b) The Committee shall hold a hearing before the Committee's adoption of any permanent bill, and shall hold a hearing or roundtable when required by law or rule. A hearing or roundtable is not required where a hearing on the same or similar bill was held in the same or immediately preceding Council period.

(c) The Committee may hold a hearing or roundtable before the passage of a proposed resolution, but shall hold a hearing or roundtable when required by law.

(d) The Committee may hold a hearing or a roundtable on any matter relating to the affairs of the District that is properly within the Committee's jurisdiction as provided for in section 231 of the Council Rules.

### **502. HEARING MATERIALS**

(a) Notice of a Committee hearing shall be given in the manner provided for in section 423 of the Council Rules. In addition, the Committee shall circulate to all members of the Council, at least 24 hours before the date of the hearing, copies of the following:

- (1) Notice of the hearing, to include the date, hour, and place of the hearing;
- (2) A draft list of witnesses that will appear and provide testimony at the hearing;
- (3) If the hearing is on a bill or resolution, a copy of the bill or resolution being considered;
- (4) Copies of some or all testimony or comments received prior to the hearing; and
- (5) Any additional information that the Chairman or Committee directs to be included.

(b) The Committee staff shall contact the Office of Secretary to maximize the likelihood that the hearings or roundtables of the Committee do not conflict with previously scheduled meetings of another committee.

(c) The Committee shall circulate notice and any accompanying materials electronically

and shall provide an additional hard copy of those materials to any Councilmember who elects to receive one pursuant to Council Rule 283(b)(2).

(d) For purposes of this section, the term “hearing” includes roundtables held by the Committee.

### **503. HEARING PROCEDURES**

(a) Each hearing shall be open to the public unless a majority of the Committee decides in open session or publicly agrees that the hearing should be closed.

(b) One member of the Committee constitutes a quorum for the taking of testimony at a hearing.

(c) For purposes of questioning witnesses before the Committee:

(1) The questioning of a witness before the Committee shall proceed in the order that Committee members arrived.

(2) The first round for questioning shall be 10 minutes unless the members agree to a longer or shorter period.

(3) The Chairman shall decide whether to allow for an additional round or rounds, and the time allowed for each Councilmember for questioning during these rounds.

(4) A witness may be questioned, with the consent of the Chairman or presiding member, by Committee staff or authorized Council staff or by counsel advising the Committee.

(d) Committee staff shall be responsible for keeping one set of all written testimony (including comments received prior to the record being closed) in unmarked condition. This set shall be filed with the Secretary to the Council as the hearing record.

(e) A hearing may be recessed to another time, day, and place by the Chairman or member presiding over the hearing. The Chairman or presiding member shall state at the time of recess when the continuation of the hearing is to take place in order to provide sufficient public notice.

(f) For purposes of this section, the term “hearing” includes roundtables held by the Committee.

### **504. HEARING DECORUM**

(a) Except when responding to a direct question of a member, no witness may address a member except through the Chairman or presiding member.

(b) A witness shall confine his or her remarks to the question under discussion and shall avoid making negative personal comments.

(c) The Chairman or presiding member shall maintain order during the meeting and if, in his or her opinion, the removal of any member of the public is necessary to maintain order, the Chairman or presiding member may, after warning, order the removal of any disorderly person.

#### **505. RIGHTS OF WITNESSES**

(a) Any witness who appears before the Committee has the right to be represented by counsel.

(b) Any witness who testifies at a hearing or roundtable of the Committee may submit a statement that shall be placed in the record of the hearing. The Chairman or presiding member may permit a witness to read the statement at the hearing.

#### **506. TESTIMONY UNDER OATH**

A witness may be affirmed or sworn to give truthful testimony.

## ARTICLE VI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**Sec.**

### **601. AMENDMENT**

(a) These rules may be amended by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

(b) An amendment must be proposed in writing, signed by the proposer, and circulated to all Members at least ten business days prior to consideration of the amendment.

(c) Two-thirds of the Members may vote to waive or shorten the ten business-day notice period.

### **602. EFFECTIVE PERIOD**

These rules shall be effective until suspended by Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Committee of the Whole adopted in a succeeding Council Period.