

Jomsky, Mark

From: Julieta Aragon <Monday, March
Sent: 28, 2022 1:13 PM Jomsky, Mark
To: Public Comment
Subject:

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Mr. Jomsky

I am one of hundreds of residents who are alarmed with the recent vote by the council to change general public comment to the end of the agenda. This is an attack on the free speech rights of Pasadenans to not allow the voice of the public to start the meetings.

First, by moving general public comment to the end limits the ability for working class residents to participate. Many residents will find it difficult to wait until 9pm or later to get to this agenda item and speak. Additionally by making this abrupt change the council is sending a clear signal that the recent uptick in public comments about police violence in this city are not welcome in the council chambers.

I am calling on you to rescind this motion and restore the general public comment to the beginning of the meeting. Residents should not be retaliated against for voicing their critiques and demands that the human rights of Black, Latinx, renters, immigrants, and working class residents be respected.

Sincerely,
Julieta

Julieta Aragon

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

Jomsky, Mark

From: Tina Williams <>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 12:20 PM
To: Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Kennedy, John J.; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jose; Madison, Steve; Wilson, Andy
Cc: De La Cuba, Vannia; Dyson, Darla; Porras, Susana; Sullivan, Noreen; Morales, Margo; Suzuki, Takako; Thyret, Pam; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Change in the order of Public Comment

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Honorable Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

I am contacting you today to request that you return the time of public comment for items not on the agenda to the beginning of the council meeting. I believe it is imperative that the public have the opportunity to speak on items not on the agenda at the beginning of council meetings for the following reasons:

- Historically, public discourse has held a prominent place in our City's governance. It is one of the many reasons Pasadena is a great place to live.
- It affirms that the Council is ready to hear the concerns of the public and values their input.
- Allows for the elderly, parents, children, and others with special circumstances to have the opportunity to speak earlier in the evening rather than to sit for what could be hours until they are given the opportunity to speak.
- The move to have public comment at the end of the council meeting may have the unintended consequence of furthering division and needlessly cause public distrust and scrutiny of the Council.

Thank you for considering my request.

Tina Williams

Director of Community Engagement | Harambee Ministries
www.harambeeministries.org

Pasadena, CA 91103

Robles, Sandra

From: Anthony Manousos
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Williams, Felicia; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John J.; PublicComment-AutoResponse; Wilson, Andy
Subject: Allow the public to speak the beginning of Council sessions, not at the end

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Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I was concerned to read that the Mayor has moved public comment on Matters Not on the Agenda to the end of the meeting without asking the Council to vote on this change. The amount of time allocated to speakers has already been shortened from 3 minutes to 90 seconds, and a series of "Special Meetings" has been called in which the public has not been allowed to speak about comments not on the agenda. It feels as if the public's voice is being minimized.

I strongly believe that the public has a right to speak on Matters Not On the Agenda at the beginning of Council meetings, as has been done for many years. This is the Pasadena way and it also the way of good government. It allows the public to let the Council know what it thinks is important and wants to be agendized.

I also believe that Council Members should have the opportunity to vote on this significant change in policy. I urge that this new policy be allowed to come up for a vote. And I urge all of you to vote to continue the status quo.

For anyone with work or family obligations, waiting to speak until the end of the meeting is an enormous time commitment, as Council member Kennedy rightly pointed out. Although the current system is burdensome, requiring that we pull cards on Thursday to get to the head of the queue, it at least gives people a fair chance to be heard.

Public comment on items not only the agenda takes only 20 minutes, and Mr. Jomsky has done a good job of managing the time and the speakers. So time is not the issue.

I urge you to let the voice of the public be heard at the beginning, not the end, of your meetings, so you can give us the attention we deserve as your constituents.

Thank you,

Anthony Manousos

[In Format Change, Pasadena City Council Will Hear Public Comments At the End, Not Beginning, of Each Meeting – Pasadena Now](#)

Robles, Sandra

From: Eloise Kaeck
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 7:46 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: public comment period

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Please keep the public comment part of city council meetings at the beginning rather than the end of meetings. We need to encourage engagement of citizens in policy decisions rather than put roadblocks up, like making busy people wait hours for a few seconds of participation!

eloise kaeck
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