



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

JAMES E. TATE, Jr.
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE

DISTRICT 1

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dir. David Whittaker, Legislative Policy Division
THRU: Mary Sheffield, City Council President
FROM: James Tate, City Council President Pro-Temp
DATE: June 5, 2025
RE: Request Amendment to City Council Rules Section 22.0

In preparation for the next Rules Standing Committee Meeting, my office is requesting that the Legislative Policy Division draft revised language for Section 22.0 of the Council Rules, which outlines the procedures for persons wishing to address City Council. This request also includes directing the City of Detroit Law Department to provide the Body with a legal opinion regarding petitions submitted by individuals requesting to speak before Council.

The goal of this revision is to:

1. Clarify the process by which petitions to address Council are received and handled;
2. Reinforce that all approved petitioners should have the opportunity to speak before the full Council, rather than being automatically referred to a Standing Committee; and
3. Ensure that it is publicly known individuals have the right to address Council prior to initiating or becoming involved in litigation with the City of Detroit.

Specifically, the Law Department is requested to opine on whether an individual is currently in litigation with the City of Detroit or otherwise has a pending claim against the City. The intent of this legal opinion is to guide the Body in determining whether the subject matter of the petitioner's request is appropriate for the public forum.

If there are any questions, please contact Caprice Jackson, Policy Analyst, at Caprice.Jackson@detroitmi.gov.

CC:

Mr. Malik Washington, Mayor's Office
Ms. Chad Fleno, Mayor's Office
The Hon. Conrad Mallet, Corporation Counsel