

Standing Committees – Purpose of Review

- This review explains:
 - How Council Standing Committees function under Rule 9 of the Rules of Conduct Resolution (RES2023-22) and Council Policy 0-12
 - Why the Rules & Open Government Committee is structurally different than the other Council Standing Committees
 - When Committee actions require Rules Committee and/or full Council action

Standing Committees: Baseline Framework

- Created by Rule 9 of the Rules of Conduct
- Advisory bodies to the City Council
- Actions are recommendations, not final Council action
- Formal authority remains with the full City Council

Subject-Matter Standing Committees

- Transportation & Environment
- Neighborhood Services & Education
- Community & Economic Development
- Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support

- Primary role: policy review and recommendations within defined subject areas

Rules & Open Government Committee – Distinct Role per Rules of Conduct Resolution and Council Policy 0-12

- In addition to policy review, Rules performs governance functions:
- Council and Study Session agenda review
- Work plan approvals and modifications
- Decide whether to Drop/Defer or request an Administrative Workload Assessment, and then make a recommendation to City Council
- Open government and ethics responsibilities

Committee Actions vs. Staff Direction

- Not all referrals are the same.
- Key distinction:
 - Policy recommendations → may go directly to Council
 - Requests involving staff work → governed by Council Policy 0-12

Policy Recommendations (Direct to Council)

- Standing Committees may:
 - Hear items on posted agendas
 - Vote on recommendations
 - Transmit Standing Committee Reports to Council
- No Rules Committee action required if no staff work is requested.

Requests Involving Staff Work

- If a committee request:
 - Asks for analysis, options, or implementation
 - Has workload, fiscal, or staffing impacts
- It is a City Council Referral under Council Policy 0-12

Council Policy 0-12 – Role of Rules Committee

- Rules Committee:
 - Screens referrals
 - Determines Assign / Defer / Drop
 - May request workload assessments
- Full Council affirms or modifies the recommendation.

Two-Lane Process Overview

- Lane 1: Policy Recommendation
- Standing Committee → Council

- Lane 2: Staff Work Request
- Standing Committee → Rules Committee → City Council

What Committees May Do Without Rules

- Request existing information
- Ask clarifying questions
- Operate within approved work plans
- Shape recommendations for Council consideration

What Committees May Not Do Independently

- Assign substantial new staff work
- Direct implementation of policy
- Commit City resources

- These actions require Policy 0-12 compliance.

Key Takeaways

- Standing Committees are advisory
- Rules is a gateway, not a substitute for Council
- When in doubt: treat staff work as a 0-12 referral
- This preserves transparency, workload control, and Council authority