



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Esparza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 1/12/2021

Approved

Maya Esparza

Date: 1/12/2021

**SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS OF VICE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF
COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct the City Attorney to return to Council on January 26th, 2021, or as soon as possible, with amendments to Resolution #79367 and any other relevant statutory provisions with language clarifying that for Council Standing Committees, including the Rules and Open Government Committee, the Mayor makes a recommendation of the slate to the Council, which has the authority to publicly discuss, amend, and approve the final slate of Standing Committee members.
2. Defer the Mayor's Recommendations 1 and 2 from his 1/11/21 memorandum to Council on this item to coincide with the timing of Recommendation 1 of this memorandum.
3. Clarify that for the interim period until staff returns with the amendments described in Recommendation 1 above, consistent with the current authority granted to the Mayor in Resolution #79367, that the proposed committee and commission assignments will take effect, subject to further Council review consistent with Recommendation 1.
4. Approve the Mayor's Recommendation 3, reappointment of Chappie Jones as Vice Mayor.

BACKGROUND

During this time of unprecedented need in our communities, we need to ensure that our communities are being effectively represented not just on the Council, but in our Council committees as well. The Rules and Open Government Committee, which serves as the gatekeeper for setting Council agendas, often hears items relating to the most urgent community needs, and as such merits particular attention to ensure that our communities have direct representation.

It is for these reasons that I recommend that the City Attorney return to Council as soon as possible with updates to Resolution #79367, which governs the composition of Council Committees, to provide Council with the explicit authority to accept or reject the Mayor's nominations to the Council Standing Committees, including the Rules and Open Government Committee, and provide Council with the authority to provide alternative nominations at the time of consideration.

Article X, Section 1002 of the City Charter provides that "all boards, commissions, and committees created by the Council shall be subject to such direction and supervision, if any, as the Council may specify, and the members thereof shall be appointed by the Council, or by the Mayor if such is authorized by the Council."

Such a step is not unusual, and similar changes have been implemented by the Council on numerous occasions. Changes to Council Committee composition, and of the Rules Committee in particular, have occurred with some regularity over the past several decades. For much of the 1980s, the Rules Committee was comprised of the Mayor and the other standing committee chairpersons, who were selected by each committee rather than mayoral appointment. This composition was altered to include the Vice Mayor in 1988 and authorized the Mayor to appoint other chairpersons. By 2003 the Mayor had been removed from the Rules Committee entirely with the Vice Mayor serving as Chair. At the time there was also a dedicated alternate member. The Mayor was again added to the Rules Committee in 2007. Since then, the Council has amended what is now Resolution #79367 about a dozen times, most recently in January of last year.

These modest proposed changes will ensure that our communities are more directly represented in our City government, and serve to strengthen our local democratic process.