



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Cohen

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO RULES OF CONDUCT  
RESOLUTION, AND CITY COUNCIL  
APPOINTMENTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND  
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES AND  
ASSIGNMENTS**

**DATE:** 01/26/2021

Approved

Date 01/26/2021

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt the Mayor's January 12, 2021 memorandum with recommended modifications 1-4 from the January 22, 2021 memorandum from Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Foley and Jimenez
2. Amend paragraph 1 of Rule 9, section (d) of Council Resolution 79367 as proposed in the Staff Resolution.
3. Amend paragraph 2 of Rule 9, section (d) of Council Resolution 79367 to specify that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Rules and Open Government Committee are recommended by the Mayor, with final appointment by the Council, while the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the other Standing Committees are elected by the committee members at their first meeting after the council approves committee membership.

## DISCUSSION

Thank you to the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers Foley and Jimenez, for finding solutions to conflicts and ensuring balance in the membership of the Rules and Open Government Committee.

This year, the Council provided input to the process of appointing members to the various standing committees, through a process that required some discussion in open session due to Brown Act limitations and standards of good governance. The process worked well, with the Mayor making recommendations for membership on the Standing Committees and the rest of the Boards and Commissions, and the Council making a few small adjustments to ensure balance and appropriate workloads. It is likely that this process will repeat itself in the future and therefore, I believe we should codify the right of the Council to advise and consent in the appointment process into the official procedures.

In many governmental bodies, when they appoint oversight committees or membership to other boards, they allow those boards to organize themselves and elect their own leadership. Last week, the Habitat Agency Governance Board and the Schools City Collaborative elected their Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons for the coming year. Likewise, it makes sense for the Council Standing Committees to elect their own leadership. Given the prominence of the Rules and Government Committee, allowing the Council to decide who leads that committee should remain an exception.