

# 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