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From: Denis Law  
Subject: Audience comment

Consider this email suggesting limiting audience comment in the context of Mayor Law's recommendation to reduce the number of council meetings by 50%.

Don,

I highly recommend that you add "Audience Comment" to your discussion in January when you discuss the frequency of council meetings. Currently, a small handful of individuals are abusing the audience comment process by regularly coming up a second time during the meeting to address the council.

As you know, the second audience comment was established years ago to make sure that all citizens who wanted to address the council would have the opportunity. The council policies limited the first audience comment to 30 minutes, and the intent was to allow those who were unable to address the council within that timeframe to have the chance at the second comment period.

We have moved away from limiting the first audience comment to 30 minutes and provide everyone the chance to speak (we should probably revise the council policy that calls for the limit of 30 minutes). A small handful of regular visitors continually come up during the second comment period despite my efforts to invite only those who did not speak during the first session.

Since I get the sense that the Council prefers to allow all citizens the opportunity to speak during the first comment period, I recommend that we drop the second audience comment. If we retain the second comment period, it's my intention not to allow a "second bite at the apple" unless a majority of the council votes to approve the second comment.

The Council needs to be advised that if you choose to allow citizens to speak twice, or extend their five minute speaking time, we open ourselves up to a legal challenge if we don't allow this for everyone, including the Stand Up America visitors.

We won't want to deliberate this issue on email. My intent is to encourage you to add this to the agenda in January.

Thanks Don.

[Mayor\_SIG\_blue\_small]  
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