RESOLUTION

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF ORDER, SECTION 12
AMENDMENT ADOPTED JUNE _____ 2005.

SECTION 12. RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Any citizen of the City of El Paso shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at all public hearings of the City Council in regard to any and all matters to be considered at such hearings that are germane and relative to any subject matter of City affairs or business which is within the scope of the authority and legislative functions of the City Council. Provided, however, that the time allowed for each citizen's appearance before City Council may be limited to a fixed number of minutes at the discretion of the presiding officer. Members of the public will usually be granted three (3) minutes to present their position on issues. Time will be kept by the City Clerk. Members of Council may move to grant additional time to speakers. Such extended time will be determined by a simple majority vote of Council, present and voting.

A maximum of thirty minutes will be allotted for a public comment portion of each regular City Council meeting. Members of the public wishing to provide comment on items not already posted on the agenda during the public comment portion of the City Council agenda must sign up prior to 9:00 am on the day of the City Council meeting. The City Clerk shall make available the sign-in sheet for the public outside of Council Chambers on the day of the Council meeting up until 9:00 am. Any person signing up to provide comment during the public comment portion of the agenda must provide their name, address and a short description of the topic(s) of their comment.

To facilitate the receiving of comment from as many citizens as possible who are interested in bringing topics forward to the City Council for comment, a person may sign up

to obtain one time slot to speak or otherwise make a presentation on one or more specified topics during the public comment portion of a City Council meeting. This provision does not restrict any member of the public from signing up to speak on items posted on the regular agenda or to ask questions regarding items posted on the consent agenda.

The time allotted for the public comment portion of the agenda shall be uniformly divided among those who have signed up to obtain a time slot and participate and except as provided below, no will a speaker have more than five minutes to speak or otherwise make a presentation, regardless of the number of topics a speaker wishes to address within his or her time slot. At the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda, the City Clerk will make one announcement as to the amount of time that each person has to provide comment. The City Clerk will call each person signed up to make comment to the podium in the order that they signed up to speak and will keep time. Each topic brought forward will be for comment from the speaker and may not be deliberated by the members of Council nor rebutted or debated by members of the public. Any member of the City Council may propose that the topic commented on be posted by staff on a future Council meeting agenda for the Council's discussion and action.

If the allotted thirty minutes for the public comment portion of the agenda has not been completely utilized by the persons who signed up, obtained a time slot and had the opportunity to speak to the Council, and one or more of these speakers had signed up to speak on multiple topics but were not able to finish their comments within their allocated time slot, then the Council, upon the request of one Council member and at the Council's discretion, may determine that it will grant additional time to one or more of these persons to speak a second time on the same topics. In such event, the City Clerk will advise the Council of the time remaining for these speakers and the Presiding Officer will allocate the

remaining time among the persons who will be allowed to speak a second time, not to exceed five minutes per person.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question regarding an item posted on the consent agenda or to speak to an item posted on the regular agenda must sign up prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day of the City Council meeting. The City Clerk shall make available the sign-in sheet for the public outside of Council Chambers on the day of the Council meeting up until 9:00 a.m. Persons may sign up to address multiple items, however this does not mean it is permissible to "mark all" or to sign up for every item "just in case" they wish to speak when the discussion on an item takes place.

At the time that the consent agenda is taken up for consideration, the City Clerk shall advise the Mayor Pro Tempore whether persons in the audience have signed up to ask a question regarding an item posted on the consent agenda. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall have the floor and may ask the City Clerk to call those individuals up to the podium to hear their questions. At that time, the City Clerk will announce the agenda item number and call the person to the podium. The Mayor Pro Tempore may request the City Manager to respond to the questions raised by the members of the public. In his or her discretion, the Mayor Pro Tem may move the consent agenda item to the regular agenda for continued discussion and action by the City Council.

Members of Council may move to overrule the determinations by the Mayor Pro Tempore under this section by a simple majority vote of the Council members present and voting.

No person may speak a second time except by permission of the presiding officer, and further, no person shall be heard a second time until all persons desiring to speak once have been given the opportunity to do so.

Personal attacks are not permitted. Members of the public should address their questions to the Council, not to the staff. Council may in turn ask staff to provide input.

Members of the public may be asked to leave or be removed from Council Chambers if it is determined that they are disruptive to the meeting. Such determination will be made by the presiding officer. Members of Council may move to overrule such determination by the presiding officer subject to a simple majority vote of Council, present and voting.

ADOPTED this 19th day of July, 2005.

CITY OF EL PASO:

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John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Charlie McNabb
City Attorney