



MEMO

TO: City Council
FROM: Councilman Mohr
DATE: April 4, 2007
COPIES: Mayor; City Solicitor; Auditor; file
SUBJECT: Rules of Council

I have recently had an opportunity to review the rules of Columbus' City Council and would like to suggest that we follow their example with regard to "statements from citizens on items not on the agenda". The Columbus City Council requires citizens to fill out a prepared form and submit it to their clerk prior to the Council meeting. My suggestion is that the form, besides asking for the citizen's name, address, phone number and subject to which they will be speaking, should inquire as to whether or not the citizen has previously addressed their concern to the appropriate department, their Council representative or to the Mayor. The number of citizens who can speak on one subject could be limited to three and the subject should be one that is pertinent to legislative matters, since this is the only thing Council can address. I would not want to, in any way, limit citizens' ability to speak about any legislation that is before Council and being considered for passage. I do, however, feel that having guidelines, with regard to items not on the agenda, will provide citizens with a more rapid and informed response to their concerns by personally addressing them to the person who has the authority to correct the situation.