

From: Austin King
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2006 12:19 PM
To: ALL ALDERS; Dept Division Heads
Cc: Tammy Peters; Maribeth Witzel-Behl
Subject: Diet on floor introductions

Attachments: memo to Ald King.doc; ReportAttachment.PDF

Dear Colleagues,

Attached is a memo from Tammy Peters in the Clerk's office related to many of the technical difficulties that accompany the introduction of items from the floor of Council meetings, especially when those items lack a fiscal note. While I am not about to call for a complete cessation of this practice, I will note that it does seem to be a crutch which we increasingly, and in many cases unnecessarily, rely on (I think at the last meeting there were eight or nine new items from the floor!). I myself am just as guilty of this practice as anyone. As you will read, the practice causes headaches not just in the clerk's office, but throughout the Legistar process, and it also provides less notice to the public about new ordinances and resolutions.

I am asking that we go on a collective diet in introducing items from the floor, such that it becomes more of a rarity than a commonplace occurrence. Additionally, if a circumstance arises that necessitates introduction from the floor, please make every possible effort to secure a fiscal note from the Comptroller prior to that introduction. I have asked the Comptroller to fast-track any fiscal notes that are for items expected to be introduced from the floor. This request applies to alderpersons as well as to department heads.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Tammy Peters with any questions.

Sincerely,
Austin King
Common Council President

From: Tammy Peters
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 1:02 PM
To: Austin King; Maribeth Witzel-Behl
Subject: Items being introduced from the council floor

Good afternoon, Austin. I have attached a memo & a sample legislative file pertaining to the memo. Thank you for your consideration & feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.