

Memorandum

To: Members, Common Council Organizational Committee

From: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

Date: September 18, 2007

Re: Chapter 2 Revisions

After reviewing the subcommittee's recommended changes to Chapter 2, I'd like to make several comments that I hope CCOC members will consider:

1. The legislative process would be significantly easier for both insiders and outsiders to follow if we would institute a numbering system for resolutions, ordinances and amendments. It would be far easier to follow along if motions were made, for example, on Amendment 3 to Substitute Amendment 1 to 2007 Res 101.
2. I also think the process would benefit from greater clarification of which of several referrals is the lead referral, and a stronger requirement that the lead referral act last.
3. It would again help the transparency of the legislative process if amendments were printed in advance to the extent possible. Copies of amendments distributed on the floor should also be available to the public, staff and media.
4. Section 2.05(1)(b) regarding referrals. I would like to see a bit more order and logic in the current rather random system of committee referrals. Now, referrals are added by the author of a resolution or ordinance change, and others are granted upon request. I suggest that we look at a systems commonly used by other legislative bodies, where referrals are made by the majority leader or president of the body. This would discourage the practice of "committee shopping," where referrals are made based on a hoped-for outcome rather than sound public policy. In instances where items are introduced from the floor, the Council President could be given the right to add referrals at any time prior to the next Council meeting
5. Section 2.15. This new section prohibits committee members from voting by proxy or participating in committee meetings telephonically or electronically

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unless a special or emergency meeting is held. While I agree with a prohibition against participating electronically at Common Council meetings and voting by proxy at any time, I have seen telephonic participation work well at committee meetings. It can be particularly helpful in meeting quorum requirements on small committees. I'm not sure eliminating this option for committees makes sense in this day of improving electronic technology.

6. Section 2.38(2) is removed. This section sets time limits on appointment confirmations and deems an appointment confirmed if it is not acted on within 20 days of submission. I don't agree with removing this protection against letting citizen appointments languish, although I believe 20 days is too short of a deadline. I would suggest leaving this language in Chapter 2, but increasing the deadline to 60 days.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.