



Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 6, 2020

Re: Public Comment Due to COVID-19 Pandemic – Social Distancing Requirements

Executive Summary

Due to COVID-19 pandemic social distancing requirements, a bill has been prepared for Council consideration which would alter the manner in which the Council receives comments from the public during the effective dates of the City declaration of emergency.

Discussion

The City Charter requires Council to accept public comment on every bill; however, it allows for Council to adopt rules and regulations as to how public comment will be received. There is no Charter requirement that public comment be verbal.

This bill would temporarily alter the current method for receiving public comment on regular council agenda items. It would not affect any public hearings which are required by either state or federal requirements. The bill calls for public comment to be submitted to the City Clerk in writing at least three (3) hours prior to the start of the meeting. The City Clerk will ensure Council receives the written comments prior to the start of the Council meeting. The written comment requirement would remain in effect during the period the City's declaration of emergency or earlier if rescinded by Council. It would also allow Council to grant an exception for good cause shown.

The bill has an emergency clause which allows for Council to consider the bill and adopt it on the same day as introduction. In order to do so, the bill must receive a six-sevenths (6/7) vote of the entire Council.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Not applicable.

Long-Term Impact: Not applicable.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Legislative History

Date	Action
	None.

Suggested Council Action

None.