

## Exhibit A

### Public Comment Rules Aurora City Council and Committee of the Whole City of Aurora, Illinois

The City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, a public body as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et. seq.*, adopts these rules providing for the opportunity for persons to address the Council and its Committee of the Whole in the manner and times as set forth below:

1. **In General.** Subject to the provisions of these rules, members of the public shall be permitted to address the Council on any subject at each of its meetings as of right. The Council need not and shall not take any vote to authorize members of the public to exercise their rights under these rules. As used in these rules, the term “Council” shall also refer to the Committee of the Whole.
2. **Individual Time Limitations.** No member of the public may be recognized for the purpose of offering public comment more than once at any single meeting or for a duration longer than three (3) minutes. A member of the public may not “yield” or “share” any portion of his allotted three (3) minutes with any other member of the public to extend the other person’s allotted time beyond three (3) minutes. The Corporation Counsel or the Corporation Counsel’s designee shall monitor the time.
3. **Aggregate Time Limitations.** Total public comment at any Council meeting shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Corporation Counsel or the Corporation Counsel’s designee shall monitor the time.
4. **Interruptions.** The presiding officer shall take reasonable steps to ensure that no member of the Council, City employee, or other member of the public while addressing the Council interrupts a member of the public while addressing the Council. Time spent resolving interruptions shall not be counted against the speaker’s allotted time.
5. **Sign-In Sheet.** The Clerk shall offer members of the public a sign-in sheet requesting their name and the item of business, if applicable, they wish to address the Council on. If a member of the public does not wish to provide his or her name, he or she should provide some other descriptor that the presiding officer can use to recognize him or her for the purpose of addressing the Council. The Clerk may make such sign-in sheet available on the City’s website.
6. **Order of Business.** The agenda for all meetings of the Council shall provide as an agenda item a time for the public to address the Council prior to its deliberation on substantive agenda items. Recognizing some business items will draw more public interest than others and that the extent of the public interest in addressing the Council may not be known until the Council convenes, the presiding officer shall have the discretion to adjust the Council’s order of business as set forth herein to more efficiently accommodate public comment.
  - a. *Consideration of Items for Which No Public Comment Will Be Offered First.* The presiding officer, in his or her discretion, may alter the sequence of business items on the agenda to consider items for which no public comment will be offered first before considering business items for which public comment will be offered.

- b. Public Comment Prior to All Business Items. The presiding officer, in his or her discretion, may entertain all public comment related to agenda business items prior to the consideration of any business item.
  - c. Public Comment Prior to Individual Business Items. The presiding officer, in his or her discretion, may entertain public comment related to a business item at the time the Council is considering that item.
7. **Comment by City Officers and Employees and Members of the Public with Pending Business.** The Council, in its discretion, may call upon City officers and employees, as well as members of the public with business before the Council to speak to or on items of business pending before the Council. Whenever the Council calls upon such a person to speak to a specific item of business his or her remarks shall not constitute public comment and the time limitations established by these rules shall not apply to these remarks nor shall the duration of these remarks be counted against the time limit set forth in Paragraph 3. In all other instances, City officers and employees wishing to offer their comments to the Council shall be subject to the same rules with respect to their public comments as member of the public at large.