

1 [Time limits for public speakers who request translation assistance.]

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3 **Motion amending the Rules of Order of the Board of Supervisors by adding Rule 1.2.1,**  
4 **which will provide twice the amount of speaking time for public speakers who request**  
5 **translation assistance at meetings of the Board of Supervisors and Board Committees.**

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7 Note: This entire Rule is new.

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9 WHEREAS, Section 67.15 of the Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance) requires  
10 that the Board of Supervisors and its Committees shall apply uniformly time limits on public  
11 testimony; and,

12 WHEREAS, Section 67.13 (e) of the Administrative Code and Rule 1.2 of the Board's  
13 Rules of Order establish a process for members of the public to request the assistance of  
14 translators at regular Board meetings and Board Committee meetings; and

15 WHEREAS, Persons who testify at public meetings who request translation services  
16 would be unfairly denied their right to be heard by Supervisors and members of the public if  
17 they were required to testify and have their testimony translated within the same time period  
18 given to other speakers who do not need translation services – in effect they would be given  
19 only half as much time to present their testimony as members of the public who do not  
20 request translation assistance; and

21 WHEREAS, The purpose of this Motion is to place in the Rules of Order of the Board of  
22 Supervisors the policy of the Board to provide equal opportunity for members of the public  
23 who request translation assistance when addressing the Board and its Committees; the Rule  
24 will allow these public speakers to have their total testimony time limit doubled, thereby  
25 allowing them the opportunity to testify for the same amount of time as all other members of

1 the public, and allowing the same amount of time for translation of their testimony, which is  
2 beneficial to Supervisors and members of the public; now, therefore, be it

3 MOVED, That Rule 1.2.1 is hereby added to the Rules of Order of the Board of  
4 Supervisors, to read as follows:

5 **“RULE 1.2.1. Time limits for public speakers who request translation assistance.**

6 When a member of the public is addressing the Board of Supervisors or one of its  
7 Committees, and when time limits have been placed on public testimony, the Chair of the  
8 meeting, in order to afford all public speakers a uniform time limit for testimony, shall allow  
9 persons requesting translation assistance to testify for twice the amount of the time limit,  
10 thereby providing uniform time for the speaker’s testimony, as well as the time necessary for  
11 the translation of the testimony for the benefit of the Supervisors and the public.”

12 and, be it

13 FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is directed to send a  
14 copy of this Motion to all Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces of the City, and to convey  
15 the Board’s request that all such City bodies adopt similar policies for the conduct of their  
16 public meetings.

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