

1 [Rules of Order – Public Testimony Provisions.]

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3 **Motion amending the Rules of Order of the Board of Supervisors to add Rule 1.1.1,**
4 **which will adopt public testimony procedures for the Board and its Committees.**

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6 Note: This entire Rule is new.

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8 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 hereby adds Rule 1.1.1 to its Rules of Order, to read as follows:

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1.1.1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY PROVISIONS.

11 The Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance provide that the Board of Supervisors may
12 adopt reasonable regulations related to public testimony. These regulations may include
13 limitations on the total amount of time allocated to each member of the public during the public
14 comment portion of Board meetings, and limitations on the total amount of time allocated to
15 each member of the public for public testimony during Committee sessions on particular
16 issues. The Sunshine Ordinance gives every person the right to address a Committee on
17 each item prior to action on the item, or to address the Board on an item if no Committee
18 hearing was held on the item before the Board for action. Time limits imposed on individual
19 speakers shall be applied uniformly to members of the public wishing to testify. In furtherance
20 of these principles, the Board of Supervisors and its committees shall not allow public
21 speakers to donate their allotted public speaking time to other public speakers, since donated
22 time would allow a recipient speaker to speak for a longer period of time than other public
23 speakers are allowed to speak. The use of videotapes and audiotapes during public
24 testimony at Board and committee meetings can be disruptive to the proceedings and to the
25 rights of other speakers. The Board discourages the use of videotapes and audiotapes during
public testimony at Board and committee meetings except when necessary to enable a

1 speaker to present his/her testimony. Each member of the public (regardless of whom they
2 are representing) shall have only one opportunity to speak on any item.

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