

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

Amended in Committee 3/14/18

[Administrative Code - Mayoral Appearance at the Board of Supervisors]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to modify the process for the Mayor to appear at the Board of Supervisors for a question-and-answer session.

Existing Law

Under Section 3.100 of the San Francisco Charter, the Mayor must appear “in person, at one regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors each month to engage in formal policy discussions with members of the Board.” Section 2.103 of the Charter further requires the Board, in consultation with the Mayor, to adopt an ordinance providing for rules and governing the conduct of Mayoral appearances at the Board. The Board enacted such an ordinance in 2011.

Under that ordinance, the Mayor appears at the Board on the second Tuesday of each month, though the Mayor and the Board President may agree to reschedule the appearance date. At the start of the Mayor’s appearance, the Mayor may speak on any topic within the jurisdiction of the Board or the Mayor, except for items on the Board’s agenda that day. After the Mayor’s initial statement, Supervisors may ask the Mayor questions. Supervisors are eligible to ask questions on a rotating basis, with Supervisors from odd-numbered districts eligible to ask questions one month and Supervisors from even-numbered districts eligible to ask questions the following month. Eligible Supervisors may pose a question to the Mayor by submitting it in writing to the Clerk of the Board by noon the Wednesday prior to the Mayor’s appearance. In some circumstances involving unforeseen and time-sensitive events, eligible Supervisors may ask questions not posed in writing prior to the deadline. The process does not allow Supervisors to ask follow-up questions and does not allow the Mayor to ask questions of Supervisors.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would change the process in the following ways:

- Eligibility to ask questions would rotate on a three-month basis, with Supervisors from Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 eligible to ask questions the first month, Supervisors from Districts 5, 6, 7, and 8 eligible to ask questions the second month, and Supervisors from Districts 9, 10, and 11 eligible to ask questions the third month.
- Instead of submitting written questions in advance, Supervisors would be required to submit a topic to the Clerk.

- At the meeting, following the Mayor's opening statement, each eligible Supervisor could ask the Mayor a question on the topic submitted by that Supervisor. The Mayor would be required to answer the question, and the Supervisor could then ask a follow-up question on the same topic, which the Mayor would also be required to answer.
- After responding to the Supervisor's question or questions, the Mayor could then ask any Supervisor present in the room a question on the same topic, which the Supervisor would be required to answer. The Mayor could then ask the same Supervisor a follow-up question on that topic, which the Supervisor would also be required to answer.
- The eligible Supervisors and the Mayor would have two minutes for each question and each answer.

Background Information

This legislative digest reflects amendments adopted by the Rules Committee on March 14, 2018.

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