

February 20, 2025

To: City Council
City Administrator

From: Mayor's Youth Council

Re: Consider amending requirements for information disclosure during Public Comment

As members of the Mayor's Youth Council, part of our duties is to attend the meetings of City Council. One of our members reported back to us that the Council was requiring those who come to testify to state their full address as well as fill out a card with personal information.

While we accept that it is necessary for speakers to fill out a card in order to ensure they are a resident and for bookkeeping purposes, we are issuing an official statement urging the Council to abandon the practice of having speakers say their full address out loud at these public meetings. We feel that it discourages participation and is a barrier for many to give their valuable input. Additionally, we are concerned about the legality of this practice as individuals in the Safe at Home Program have their addresses protected by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 5B and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8290.

If you have any questions, we invite you to attend one of our Wednesday morning meetings, or get in touch with us through the Youth on Boards adult advisor, Martha Lundin.