

From: [Bob Burris](#)
To: [Don Penman](#); [Michael Klein](#); [Maricela Hernandez](#); [Kindon Meik](#)
Cc: [Michael Russo](#); [Arvin Petros](#); [Yadira Zimmerman](#)
Subject: FW: City Council 3-23-22 meeting – Agenda item #4 – Public Comments
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:00:18 AM

Bcc'd to Council

From: Joe Chilco <joe.chilco@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 1:05 PM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Cc: Maricela Hernandez <mhernandez@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: City Council 3-23-22 meeting – Agenda item #4 – Public Comments

With regard to Resolution No. 2022-1769, please consider the following comments.

Paragraph #4: The proposed deletion of the text, “Speakers may cede their time to an appointed spokesperson.”, should not be made with regard to large developments, specifically those that come before the Planning Commission. If the intent is to allow opportunity for meaningful input from the public, three minutes is not sufficient to effectively convey information in support or denial of a document such as an Environmental Impact Report that is very lengthy and technically complex. In order to facilitate this in the past, speakers have been allowed to cede their time. As currently written, the decision to cede time rests with the individual member(s) of the public, not the Commission chair.

By comparison, the applicant has had the benefit of working with City Planning Department Staff to present their best representation of the proposed project, and the City staff present the proposed project with no time limit restriction.

As a member of the public who has provided input on large proposed development projects, I know how much time, effort and research must be put in to accomplish this task, both in written and spoken comments. If members of the public have well-researched points to convey, ceding time will allow for this.

It is a sentiment I have heard expressed many times from members of the public.

If the intent is to encourage public participation, I ask that you allow speakers to cede their time to an appointed spokesperson with regard to large developments, specifically those that come before the Planning Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Chilco
Calabasas resident
(address on file)

March 21, 2022

Calabasas City Council
100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA. 91302

Dear Mayor Maurer and City Council Members:

I'm unable to attend the upcoming Council meeting due to work; however, I'd like to submit the following comments for your consideration regarding Resolution #2022-1769.

I fully support speakers ceding their time for public comments. I've spoken before the City Council and Planning Commission many times over the years. It seems to me that it's been a long time since residents have been able to cede their time. It's not been allowed at some of the hearings I've attended.

It's been my experience that some residents wish to speak only briefly, if at all, to register their opinion. When a large development project is being considered, some residents delve into EIRs, City code, the General Plan and other documents. The three-minute rule is extremely limiting for those who do deep research into an issue. Splitting comments between multiple speakers is possible, but it actually takes more time in the long run than having a single speaker. It's been my experience that splitting comments diminishes the voice of the residents who relinquish their time in this way because they curtail their own comments. At every public hearing I've attended I've been asked by residents if they could cede their time to other speakers.

City staff has unlimited time for their presentations; developers have unlimited time to speak. Residents don't want to cede their time in order to filibuster a decision. However, it doesn't feel like an equal playing field when residents have only three minutes to present well-researched points for decision-makers to consider. I urge you to allow residents to cede their time at all Council and Commission meetings and hearings. This is something that should be enacted consistently, not just in some instances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Frances Alet
Calabasas

From: [Bob Burris](#)
To: [Maricela Hernandez](#); [Kindon Meik](#)
Cc: [Michael Russo](#)
Subject: Fw: March 23, 2022 City Council Meeting - Consent Item 4 - Changes to Commission Hearings
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:48:25 PM

Bcc'd to Council

From: John Suwara <johsuwa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:12 PM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: March 23, 2022 City Council Meeting - Consent Item 4 - Changes to Commission Hearings

Dear City of Calabasas Council Members,

I was surprised to see this item appear as a consent item. This is to request that this be removed as a Consent Item. It is important and this is to respectfully request that there be discussion of this Item that includes allowing the ceding of time.

This item no longer permits the ceding of time in Planning Commission Hearings. The ceding of time is a rare occurrence. Since I started attending City Council and Planning Commission hearings I've seen it permitted twice at hearings. It never occurred at City Council meetings. Although at one meeting in an attempt to get around not being able to cede time, members of the Public at a hearing decided to divide up their presentation into 3 or less minute segments and have multiple people present. That worked only for the first presentation. The remaining presentations lacked continuity with prior presentations and the message was lost. Multiple people did not work out well.

Therefore it is respectfully requested that on the rare occasion when ceding of time is requested by public commentators, please consider it. Limits can be imposed on the length of ceded time presentations. The developer, consultants and staff are permitted lengthy presentation. Why not allow the Public to use ceded time to make a longer, more effective and logical presentation?

Thank You for your consideration,
John and Joanne Suwara