

From: [Civic Whittier](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Public Comment - 5/12/26: 10.B Potential Revisions to Public Comment
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 1:36:47 PM

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With July 1, 2026, less than two months away, why are the public comment revisions that the City is required to make under SB 707 not part of tonight's discussion? With the deadline less than two months out, the Council is being asked to give directions on public comment rules without any of the required SB 707 revisions on the agenda.

The Council should be asking, on record tonight: why aren't the required revisions being discussed alongside the optional ones?

- Where is the disruption policy that new Government Code section 54953.4 requires the City to adopt in open session before July 1, 2026?
- Where is the implementation plan for the two-way telephonic or audiovisual public participation that the City must offer in every open meeting starting July 1?
- Where is the plan to translate meeting agendas and participation instructions into all applicable languages?
- Where is the acknowledgment of the requirement under Government Code 54954.3(b)(2) to give at least double the speaking time to anyone using a translator?

With the new Brown Act updates, Whittier needs to give the public the maximum possible access, not less.

On the optional items in tonight's staff report, that means:

- **Rescind the speaker card submission deadline. It locks out residents who arrive late, who learn about an agenda item at the last minute, or who have childcare and work conflicts.**
- Reject any ban on commenters using their devices to let others speak. Starting July 1, the City must offer two-way phone or video participation. A vague device ban risks blocking the very access state law now requires.
- Keep the presiding officer's discretion to allow brief closing remarks. Reject any strict no-discretion enforcement. Strict cutoffs, applied selectively, are how cities end up sued for viewpoint discrimination.
- **Drop the physical line-up requirement, or pair it with a clear accessibility accommodation. Residents with mobility limitations, chronic conditions, pregnancy, or young children should not lose their place because they cannot stand and wait.**
- Limit any mayoral discretion to deviations that expand access, not restrict it.

Whittier is two months away from a state-law deadline (July 2026). The Council can lead on this or be dragged into compliance. Leading is cheaper and the right thing to do.

Give the public the most access, not less.

Ashley Reveles

CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department