



Rochester Hills

DRAFT Report

1000 Rochester Hills Drive
 Rochester Hills, MI 48309
 (248) 656-4660
 Home Page:
 www.rochesterhills.org

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Controlling Body: Community Development & Viability / Financial Services / Public Safety Joint Committee

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File Name: Discussion to Dissolve Council Communication Committees

Final Action:

Title: Discussion Regarding the Advisability of Dissolving the City Council Communication Committees

Notes:

Code Sections:

Agenda Date:

Indexes: Committees & Commissions

Agenda Number:

Sponsors:

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Attachments:

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History of Legislative File

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Administration and Information Services Committee	10/03/2006	Discussed				
<p>AIS DRAFT Notes: Ms. Holder gave an overview as to purpose of the City Council Communication Committees and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Communication Committees have served their purpose since they were created in 1999 and 2000 to provide a forum for Council members and Directors to discuss issues in an informal committee setting and alleviate in-depth discussion at the Council meeting level. However, when a recommendation is made at the Committee level, the Council members wish to review the entire issue at a Council meeting which is redundant and inefficient for Council members as well as for the Clerk's staff. * Council and Committee minutes for 2006 are six to nine months behind schedule due to staffing cuts in the Council team area which has placed an additional burden on Council team members. * Some issues, such as liquor licenses, which require a committee review by law, could be handled by a technical committee. Other issues also could be handled by technical committees as necessary which Council could create on an "as need" basis. 							

* Council is discussing a modification for its 2007 meeting schedule to include a work session on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in addition to Regular business meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The Work Sessions would provide all Council members with information on non-consent agenda items and thus decisions could be made at Regular Meetings which would be held one week after a Work Sessions.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of dissolving the Communication Committees and noted the following:

* The modified Council meeting schedule for 2007 would be beneficial because all Council members would receive the information at the same time versus some council members receiving information at the committee level.

* Council is repeatedly discussing at length issues that were discussed and recommendations made at the Committee level which creates more work for Council members as well as staff members.

* Council can establish Technical Committees as needed for issues that may require annual recommendations or require more in-depth discussions. Recommendations could be presented to Council members at Work Session meetings for review and discussion. Technical committees can also include citizen and youth representatives.

* Council members continue to have to hear the same information repeated again at one or more Council meetings that was previously discussed at one or more Committee meeting.

* Council will review methods include youth representatives from the Rochester Hills Youth Government Council (RHYGC) at Work Sessions and Regular Meetings if Communication Committees are dissolved.

* It may be feasible to combine the Communication Committees into two (2) committees, as their duties may be related; ie: AIS & FS might be combined; CDV & PS might be combined. LAC may be dissolved completely.

* If Communication Committees are dissolved, Council members and Directors need to be cognizant of not creating too many technical committees that may be redundant also.

* One way to relieve the redundancy of information is to have the full council hear all information from the beginning.

* There may be a question of trust between recommendations from the Committees to Council.

Chairperson Holder explained that she will ask for Council's feedback and encouraged any additional comments from the AIS Committee to be forwarded to her or the Clerk's Office. She would like to "fast-track" this item for a final recommendation before December as the outcome will affect Council's 2007 appointments to committees as well as its Rules of Procedure.