



Rochester Hills

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

Referral Notice City Council Regular Meeting

To: Administration and Information Services Committee
From: City Council Regular Meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2006

This Legislative File is being referred to you for your review, response and/or action. Any due date is noted below. Should you require any further information or are unable to meet the specified due date, please contact the City Council Liaison at (248) 841-2463.

2005-0346 City Council Policy for Use of Electronic Communication Devices During City Council Meetings

Resolved that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby directs the Administration & Information Services (AIS) Committee to review the City Council Policy for Use of Electronic Communication Devices During City Council Meetings and return to City Council with recommended changes or modifications within three months.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council directs the AIS Committee to work in conjunction with the City Attorney to ensure that all legal issues in association with this matter are appropriately addressed.

Excerpted Draft Minutes January 4, 2006: *Mr. Barnett noted that some of the language of the policy suggestions with regard to the use of communication devices during Council meetings could be softened suggesting the use of the word "discouraged" in place of "prohibited."*

Mr. Duistermars noted that the issue was a matter of common sense and courtesy, suggesting that Council members place their pagers and cell phones on vibrate during meetings and exercise discretion when drawn away from meetings due to emergencies.

It was stressed by Council members that the resources available to them at the dais were an enhancement of their abilities.

President Rosen agreed while indicating that his primary concern with regard to this matter is that Council members not be distracted by these resources and that no use of communication devices during meetings runs afoul of the Open Meetings Act or the Freedom of Information Act.

City Attorney John Staran concurred and asked that he be permitted to provide input into this matter prior to the adoption of any new policy.

It was determined that this matter too should be evaluated by the Administration & Information Services (AIS) Committee and a recommendation be brought back to Council within three months.

NOTE: If there are any questions concerning this notice, please direct them to the City Council Liaison.
