

**Alderman Tamir Bell**  
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May 27th, 2026



**Tamir Bell**  
Alderman – 13<sup>th</sup> Ward

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Director Hammer, Administrator Cagnoni, Mayor McNamara  
**FROM:** Alderman Tamir Bell  
**DATE:** May 27, 2026  
**RE:** Proposed Amendment Regarding Committee Chair and Vice Chair Selection

The purpose of this memorandum is to acknowledge the current verbiage in the ordinance and propose an amendment to the City Council Rules related to the selection of committee leadership.

Currently, Rule 7 of the City Council Rules states:

**“All committees shall be appointed by the Mayor, unless otherwise specially directed by the Council.”**

While the Mayor maintains authority over committee appointments, the existing rule also provides the City Council with the authority to establish an alternative process when deemed appropriate by the Council.

**In the interest of strengthening collaboration, transparency, member engagement, and shared legislative leadership, I am proposing that standing committees be empowered to elect their own Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members assigned to each committee.**

Under this proposal:

- Committee appointments would continue to be made by the Mayor.
- Each standing committee would convene following appointments.
- Committee members would elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson by majority vote of the committee membership.

Proposed Rule Language:

“Each standing committee shall, at its first meeting following committee appointments, elect from among its members a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson by majority vote of the committee membership.”

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This proposal is intended to:

- Encourage greater collaboration among council members
- Ensure committee leadership reflects the confidence of committee members
- Promote shared ownership of the legislative process
- Strengthen accountability and participation within committees
- Modernize council governance practices consistent with many legislative bodies across the country

This proposal is not intended to diminish the role of the Mayor, but rather to enhance the collaborative function of the legislative branch and ensure committee leadership is selected by those directly serving on the committees.

**Proposed Code Amendment:**

**Sec. 2-\_\_\_. - Selection of committee chairpersons and vice chairpersons.**

Each standing committee of the city council shall, at its first meeting following the appointment of committee members, elect from among its members a chairperson and vice chairperson by majority vote of the committee membership.

The chairperson shall preside over meetings of the committee. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson shall preside.

Any vacancy in the position of chairperson or vice chairperson shall be filled by majority vote of the committee membership at the next regular meeting of the committee.

This section shall apply to all standing committees of the city council unless otherwise specially directed by the council.

**Suggested Amendment to Rule 7**

Rule 7 is hereby amended to read:

**Rule 7. Committees.**

All committees shall be appointed by the mayor, unless otherwise specially directed by the council. The chairperson and vice chairperson of each standing committee shall be elected by the members of that committee by majority vote of the committee membership at the first meeting following committee appointments.