

City Council Meeting Notifications

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Building Better Engagement with San Francisco City Council Meetings

Improving public participation in local government meetings in San Francisco.



Residents miss on opportunity to Attend and Participate

“Democracy is not
a ~~spectator sport~~.”

???

For Local Gov , there are hardly any spectators
Residents not keen on playing the sport

Current Issues



Low civic engagement

Only handful of residents participate in city council meetings.



Hard to follow and contribute

Council meetings agendas and proceeding are hard to understand and grab attention of residents



Delayed Response

Eventually Resident become discontent with the outcomes of policy decisions of the past

Improving engagement and constructive dialogue is key to representing all residents.

Clerical Dump of Info cumbersome for residents

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS						
Board of Supervisors						
People						
	Last Month		BOS and Committees		<input type="checkbox"/> notes	<input type="checkbox"/> closed captions
Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Meeting Details	Agenda	Minutes	Video
10/31/2023	2:00 PM	Legislative Chamber, Room 250 City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Minutes	Video
10/30/2023	1:30 PM	City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Minutes	Video
10/30/2023	10:00 AM	City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Not available	Video
10/27/2023	10:00 AM	City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Minutes	Video
10/26/2023	10:00 AM	City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Minutes	Video
10/25/2023	10:00 AM	City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Minutes	Video
10/24/2023	2:00 PM	Legislative Chamber, Room 250 City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	Meeting details	Agenda	Minutes	Video

Referred Without Recommendation From the Land Use and Transportation Committee

220709 [Planning Code - Nighttime Entertainment Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial District]

Sponsors: Mandelman; Dorsey

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to change the zoning controls in the Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial District to exclude Article 10 Landmark buildings from use size limitation and allow Nighttime Entertainment with a Conditional Use authorization on the second floor; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code, Section 302.

(Supervisor Peskin voted No on First Reading.)

FINALLY PASSED by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton

Noes: 1 - Peskin

Excused: 1 - Preston

Recommendation of the Rules Committee

230897 [Administrative Code - Cash Revolving Funds]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to remove the authorization for cash revolving funds for certain City departments (Fire, Medical Examiner, Public Works, Recreation and Park, Sheriff, San Francisco Employees' Retirement System, and War Memorial) and reduce the maximum amount of the cash revolving fund for the Port of San Francisco. (Treasurer-Tax Collector)

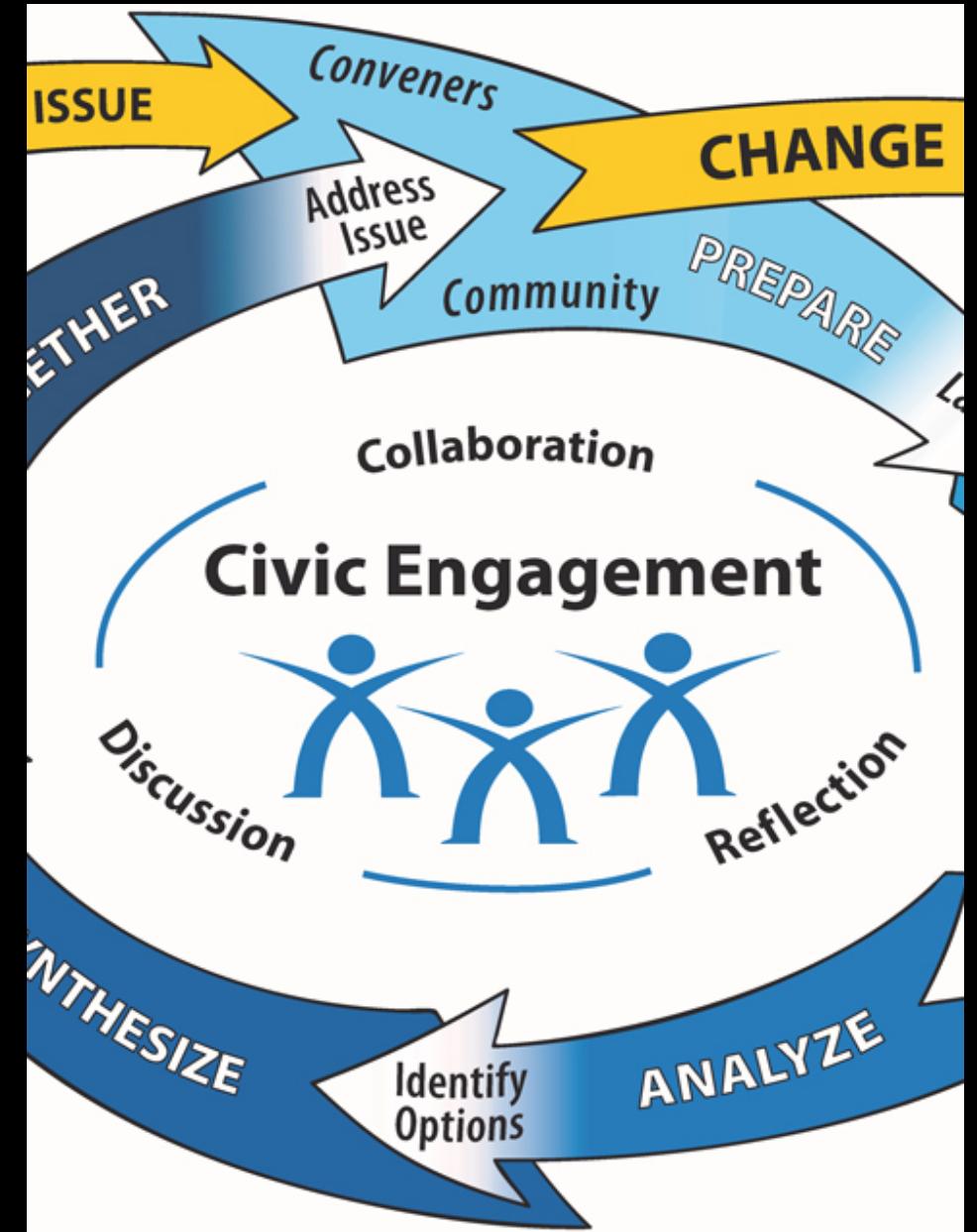
FINALLY PASSED by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton

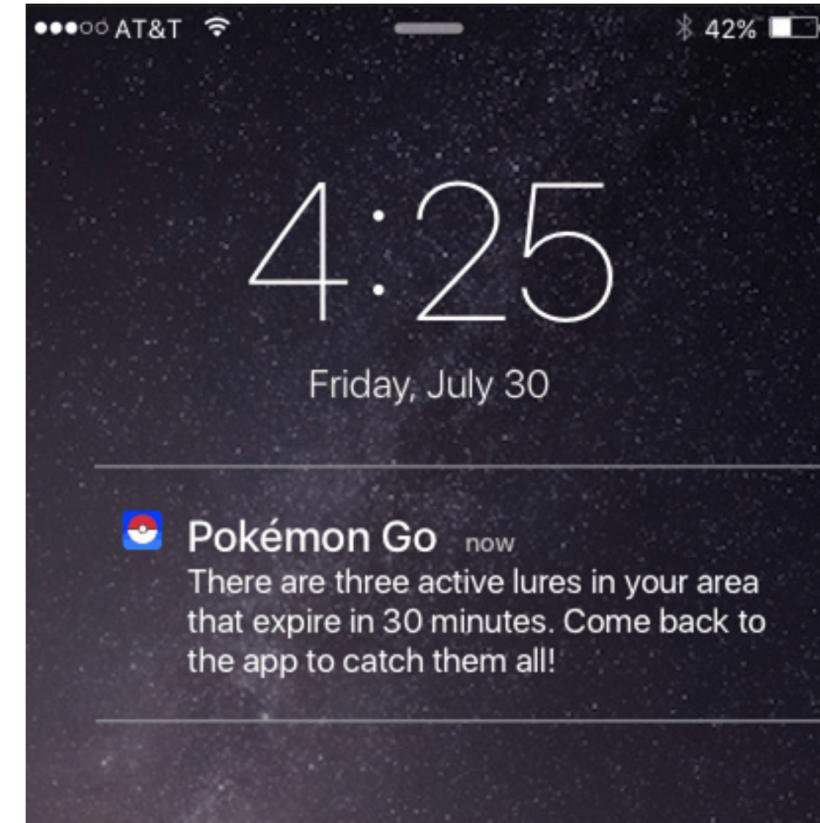
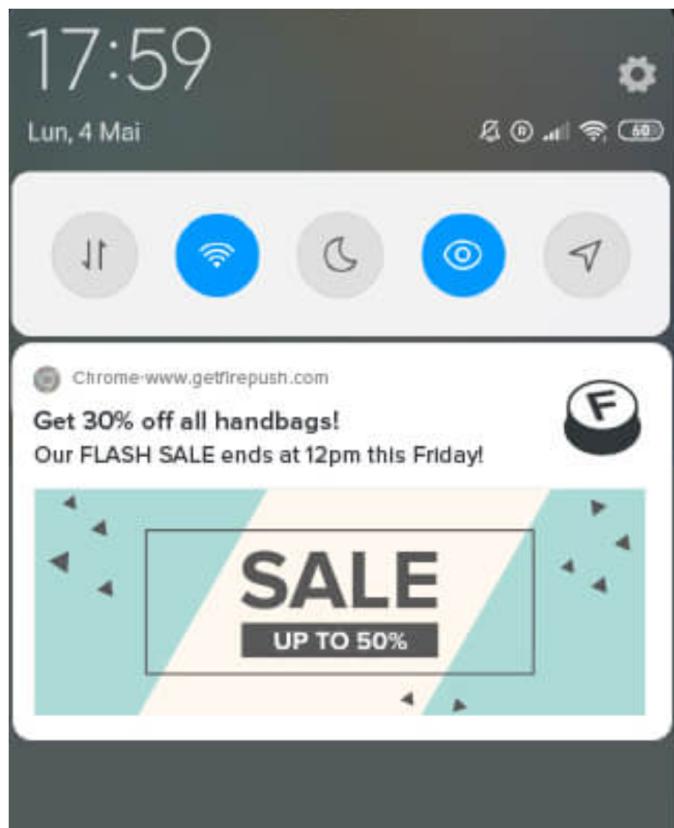
Excused: 1 - Preston

Solution: Transform the Media

- Simplify the language used in agendas and meeting Minutes
- Create easy to grasp Multimedia snippets



If People are Fine with



Proposed Solutions

- **Improved public outreach**

Develop city-wide advertising campaigns to increase public awareness of ways to get involved and provide feedback. Create an online portal for submitting comments.

- **Clear guidelines for public comment**

Provide a structured process for public comment with clear instructions, time limits, and rules of conduct. Allow submission of written comments.

- **Small group discussions**

Break large meetings into smaller discussion groups to facilitate more intimate dialogue and build connections between community members and city officials.

Small Group Guidelines



Respect each other

Listen attentively, allow others to speak and share ideas without interruption



Stay engaged

Be an active participant, avoid distractions and side conversations



Use appropriate language

Avoid inflammatory or offensive words, focus on issues not individuals

Following these simple guidelines will lead to more constructive and productive discussions.

Meeting Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome and Introductions	Chair Jones
Approval of Minutes	Secretary Lee
Committee Reports	Vice Chair Davis

*Made up sample agenda for this prompt.

Next Steps

- **Implement solutions**

Roll out the solutions identified during engagement planning to improve participation in council meetings.

- **Track engagement**

Collect data on meeting participation before and after implementing solutions to quantify impact.

- **Iterate on process**

Use insights from engagement tracking to refine solutions and further improve participation.

Resident Outreach Timeline

