

for proposed ordinances, especially those of a land use or regulatory nature. If such hearings are conducted at the board or commission level, the Council can be assured that all citizens have had an opportunity to voice their opinions. The Council should have confidence in its advisory sub-units and give fair consideration to their recommendations when presented on the Council floor. The Council should encourage a thorough discussion at the board or commission level, which will permit all interested parties to express their opinions. The actual deliberations at Council meetings can therefore, focus on the viewpoints of the elected representatives themselves.

The Mayor may appoint an Alderman to function as a liaison to any Board or Commission. It is expected that the liaison will attend the meetings of that Board or Commission and be available to report on the activities, conduct and recommendations of the Board or Commission. The liaison should be available to the Board or Commission to respond to questions of the Board or Commission members with respect to City Council practices and procedures that may bear on the particular issue before the Board or Commission. It is not the role of the liaison to express opinions on any issue before the Board or Commission in the liaison's capacity of Alderman. The liaison may, as a resident, express personal opinions on an issue; but must remain mindful that it is not the role of the liaison to use his or her position as Alderman to influence the independent reflection, discussion and judgment of the board or Commission members. The liaison will not be a voting member of a Board or Commission where that Board or Commission deliberates on requests by persons or entities for favorable City Council consideration. Currently, this would apply to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Appearance Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the O'Hare Airport Commission.

In most instances, it is expected that the liaison to a Board or Commission will present to the City Council matters arising out of the deliberations of that Board or Commission.

In addition to the independent commissions and boards, there are advisory groups whose membership typically includes one or more elected officials.

On May 3, 2005, the City Council adopted Rules for Committee and Commission Assignments. In compliance with those Rules, one of the advisory groups is the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Boards and Commissions. This group is responsible for interviewing candidates for the City's boards and commissions. The committee will act in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to the Mayor or the City Council pursuant to the rules as set forth in Appendix I of this manual. The committee shall consist of the Chairmen of the Public Works Committee, the Finance and Budget Committee, the Procedures and Regulations Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Finally, the City Council may establish standing committees or special ad hoc committees as may best serve the Council's needs and interest, or the Council may meet as a Committee-of-the-Whole. At the present time, there are four standing committees that meet as a Committee-of-the-Whole: Public Works; Finance and Budget; Procedures and Regulations; and Public Safety.

1. The purpose of the Public Works Committee is to consider all matters of policy relating to:
 - a) capital improvements and the construction or maintenance of public works