How to Engage With City Council

- Information on City Council meetings and how to participate can be found on the <u>City Clerk's website</u>. You'll also find weekly agendas, recordings and journals of past meetings.
- When speaking in front of the City Council, you may only speak about items on the agenda or you will be called "out of order" and asked to stop.
- You can speak on the record as a proponent (in support) or opponent (against) of something on the agenda either virtually (with Zoom), or live at the Tuesday meetings at City Hall, 1819 Farnam Street, at 2:00pm.
- You can also email your City Councilor and copy the Clerk (cityclerk@cityofomaha.org) with your statement for public record.
- Find your City Council representative and their contact information here: https://citycouncil.cityofomaha.org/council-members

If you're speaking via Zoom:

You must register with the clerk by emailing cityclerk@cityofomaha.org with your name, address*, item number you're speaking on, and whether you're a proponent or opponent. They'll email you back with a Zoom meeting invite and once that's complete, you'll receive an "Omaha City Council Meeting Confirmation" email. This all must be completed by 4:30pm on Monday before the meeting.

If you're speaking in person:

Go up the escalator to the 2nd floor and enter either door of the chambers. There's usually a clerk sitting outside the doors with a paper agenda in case you'd like to follow along. To testify in person you can just show up, no pre-registration required. When your item comes up, go up to the lectern and state your name, address*, item number you're speaking on, and whether you're a proponent or opponent. You then have about three minutes to testify; President Festersen doesn't always keep track of the time but this is the general rule. You must address the City Council and not the audience. You may not

ask questions of the Council. They are just going to listen to what you have to say. It's possible that they'll call you back up to answer any of their questions, but generally you just provide your statement and then sit back down. You may speak on more than one item within the agenda. Repeat the process with your name and address each time you're testifying.

*It is now possible to speak (virtually, live, or via email) without giving your address by filling out the <u>address waiver</u>.

This must be completed the Monday before the meeting by 4:30pm.