

City Code Alignment

Questions from 12.5.23 Government Transition Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Will code revisions take into consideration big things coming up like the changes to the permitting process?

Yes, the code team, which is made up of transition team staff members, City Attorney's office staff, and City Auditor's office staff, are coordinating with other major city project teams, such as the permit process improvements team, to ensure we either bring revisions to council in a single package or time the revisions so as to not interfere with each other's efforts. I'm also working with representatives of all bureaus to ensure any annual updates are appropriately timed with our updates, to limit how often council needs to consider and approve a title in the coming year.

2. Will code revisions align with the new service areas?

Yes, the approved city organizational chart, including new service areas, will be reflected in code where necessary.

3. Why do code revisions include plain language revisions? The City is removing "shall" which legally means a duty to do.

Transition Team forwarded this to the City Attorney's Office.

4. The City is revising code, in part, to remove sexist language. Is there any proactive gender equity language being added?

We invite you to submit examples of proactive language that we can consider as part of the code revisions.

5. The City is requesting that the Government Transition Advisory Committee particularly review revisions to Title 3 Administration and Title 5 Revenue and Finance. How will the committee be aware of the proposed revisions and how will we be asked to engage?

I plan to regularly update the committee on timeline and upcoming drafts. We will also be regularly updating a [webpage](#) with links to draft language. I hope that interested committee or community members will review any posted draft language and offer comments or recommendations. The committee may also choose to form a workgroup to discuss the specific titles and provide recommendations.

I would also appreciate committee (or workgroup) input on meaningful ways to engage the community in this work, particularly on Titles 3 and 5, which we anticipate having policy choices.

6. How long will the public period comment be for Title 3 Administration?

At this time, approximately one month is scheduled for public input.

7. What chapters of Title 3 Administration will be revised? Will Chapter 3.96 Office of Community & Civic Life be revised? Neighborhood associations are interested, and any proposed revisions should be broadcast early and often.

The entirety of Title 3 is being reviewed. However, we are making NO updates to current programs, policies, or authorities unless they directly relate to the amended charter, the new organizational chart, or any new state, federal, or county laws.

As part of the review, we are considering the order in which the chapters are arranged and re-ordering when appropriate. We are also deleting expired sections and removing sections better suited to live in other code titles or administrative policies.

8. How long will the public comment be for Title 5 Revenue and Finance?

At this time, approximately three weeks are scheduled for public input. We are aiming to have each public comment period open for 10-15 business days.

9. Does the Government Transition Advisory Committee need a subcommittee on code revisions?

On November 1, 2023, the Government Transition Advisory Committee approved a workplan that includes as deliverables advising on code changes and amplifying public engagement opportunities related to code changes to the Charter to prepare for the new form of government. The workplan notes that code changes deliverables would be accomplished by a workgroup not a subcommittee. Workgroups are as-needed bodies versus subcommittees that are ongoing. Staff asked committee members if they wanted a workgroup for Title 15 Emergency Code revisions and only one member expressed interest. Staff can continue to inquire about workgroups as specific codes are revised.