



## General Government & Social Services Committee

September 1, 2015  
Summary and Motions

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Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. All Committee Members were present. Vice Mayor Kay was also in attendance.

### I. Approval of Summary

A motion was made by Scutchfield to approve the July 7, 2015 General Government & Social Services Committee Summary and Motions, seconded by Akers. The motion passed without dissent.

### II. Ord. 271-2009 – Oath of Office for Boards, Agencies & Commissions

Steve Pracht, Deputy Council Clerk, gave a presentation regarding the requirements for Oath of Office for Boards and Agencies. He reviewed a summary of current membership of Boards, Commissions and Agencies, and recommended that the existing ordinance language be amended to require oath by affidavit form within 60 days of Council confirmation.

Evans stated her desire to see the rules authorize others to administer the oath.

Akers requested to see a copy of the affidavit, and asked if the Council Clerk's office could still administer the oath under Evans' motion. Melissa Murphy stated that Evans' motion would expand those able to administer the oath to include judges, county judge executive, notary republic, clerk of the court, or justice of the peace.

F. Brown inquired and received clarification regarding the process for submitting the affidavit.

Evans noted that when oath takers have the affidavit notarized, the notary could perform the oath and she feels this would simplify the process.

In response to a question from Lamb, Murphy stated that a notary would be required for completion of the affidavit.

Bledsoe inquired if the Council Clerk is a notary. Pracht replied that the Clerk is a notary and that anyone in the Council Clerk's office is able to notarize the affidavit.

Akers stated that a notary or authorized individual could still administer the oath. Murphy clarified that judges are not necessarily notaries.

Lamb stated it is difficult for the Council Clerk's office to administer the oath to each oath taker, noting the high yearly volume of appointments.

A motion was made by Evans to amend the draft ordinance to include language including all authorized officers to administer the oath of office, seconded by J. Brown. The motion failed by an 8 – 2 vote. (Yay: Akers, Bledsoe, F. Brown, Gibbs, Henson, Lamb, Moloney, Scutchfield Nay: J. Brown, Evans)

A motion was made by Bledsoe to approve the amendments to Section 2-19 (1) of the Code of Ordinances as proposed, seconded by Akers. The motion passed without dissent.

F. Brown asked if the handout the Committee received regarding board vacancies is up to date. Jamie Emmons, Mayor's Chief of Staff, noted that the list is quickly outdated due to turnover of membership on boards. F. Brown inquired if Council could assist in filling these vacancies. Emmons replied that input from Council would be helpful.

Lamb stated that board vacancies will be discussed in more detail at a future committee meeting. Moloney stated that the Council used to receive quarterly updates on board vacancies.

### **III. Review of Ethics Ordinance**

Evans presented a progress update on behalf of the Ethics Ordinance Review Subcommittee. Evans noted that the subcommittee expects to have a report and list of recommendations prepared by the end of the year.

There was no discussion on this item.

### **IV. Extended Social Service Resource (ESR) Process**

CM Bledsoe introduced this item, and stated that the goal is to create a transparent, impactful process. Chris Ford, Commissioner of Social Services, reviewed the current year ESR appropriation and introduced Theresa Maynard, Administrative Officer to present the program history and recommendations.

Theresa Maynard presented revisions to the ESR process over the past several years, and the adopted ESR program guidelines. She provided an overview of the implementation schedule that was utilized over the past year, and a summary of the funding that was approved by Council. Maynard presented a proposed schedule for continued development of the program over the next two years for the committee's consideration.

F. Brown stated his preference for an annual application cycle, and noted the close vote when this item was last considered. Ford agreed that this issue should continue to be considered by Council as the process moves forward. In response to a question from F. Brown, Ford noted that 38 volunteers reviewed the applications, and confirmed that groups reviewed different

applications. F. Brown stated that he would prefer that all applications are reviewed by the same group to prevent skewed results. Ford stated the process is administratively burdensome, and that the department has considered scoring applications in groups organized by funding categories.

Henson stated her desire for priority to be given to programs providing for basic human needs. Ford stated that work is ongoing to further define funding priorities. Henson also stated her support for having at least two meeting times for the mandatory preapplication meeting for applicants.

Akers asked for a timeline for amendments to the process, and Ford stated that work will begin in the fall. Akers stated she believes they should cap the amount provided to individual agencies. Ford stated this is a recommendation they will consider bringing back to Council. Akers inquired if conflict of interest forms are signed by each reviewer. Maynard stated they are. Akers stated her support of reviewing the ranking system and also noted she believes the category of Public Health should be reconsidered for its appropriateness as a funding category.

Moloney inquired if the funding amount is consistent year to year within the two year cycle, and Ford replied that it is. Moloney noted his preference for a two year funding cycle.

J. Brown asked why the recommended funding amount is one percent of the General Fund. Ford stated it was a demonstration of commitment from Council that was arrived at by a previous Council. J. Brown inquired why 25 percent of the total funding is allocated to emergency shelters, and Ford provided history related to this allocation. J. Brown stated concern for placing caps by funding categories, which may result in loss of flexibility in the program.

Kay stated he would like to see time be effectively managed during the break before the application process begins, and would like to see some of the issues discussed by the Committee reported back to the Council before February. Kay stated Council previously looked at only funding new and innovative ideas, not recurring funding and stated he would like to see this looked at again. Kay stated he wants to see the best projects funded, and therefore does not support caps. Kay stated his support of the two year cycle.

In response to a question from Evans, Ford stated that the grant process is only 4 years old and noted that the department is continuing to refine the process.

There was public comment.

## **V. Items in Committee**

A motion was made by Bledsoe to remove Ord. 271-2009 – Oath of Office for Boards, Agencies & Commissions from Committee, seconded by Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Bledsoe to adjourn, seconded by Scutchfield. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

D.S 9.2.2015

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_-2015

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-19 (1) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, DELETING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CLERK OF THE URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE TO BOARD, AGENCY, AND COMMISSION APPOINTEES AND EXTENDING THE TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE OATH OF OFFICE BY AFFIDAVIT.

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That Section 2-19 (1) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Code of Ordinances be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All appointees to the boards, agencies and commissions covered by the provisions of Article 7 of the Charter and which require council confirmation for appointment of members shall ~~[take an oath of office administered by the clerk of the Urban County Council or]~~ complete an oath of office by affidavit, unless exempt by law. Appointees shall not take office until after completion of the oath. If the oath is not completed within ~~[thirty (30)]~~ sixty (60) days after council confirmation, the office shall be vacated and another appointment to the office shall be made by the mayor subject to council confirmation. The oath by affidavit form shall be submitted to the council clerk's office within ~~[fourteen (14)]~~ thirty (30) days after completion.

Section 2 - That this Ordinance shall become effective upon the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLISHED:

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