

Public Comments Not Uploaded Problems with being recognized when calling in to speak at City hearings CF 17-0893 4/15/21

1 message

Barbara Broide <bbroide@hotmail.com>

Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 7:26 PM

Reply-To: clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org

To: Armando Bencomo <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>

Cc: City Clerk LA <clerk-ensla@lacity.org>, Angel Izard - CD 5 <angel.izard@lacity.org>

I wish to thank you for responding to my email message during the PLUM hearing of April 15th when I was not recognized to speak.

As a result of my email message to you, my phone number was acknowledged after comments were closed. (Was that the result of my having emailed you my phone number or was it visible to staff at that point in time?)

I could hear my last four digits being called and I attempted to unmute myself using the star key command but I could not be heard and the meeting moved on.

I am writing to report this situation because this is NOT the first time I have called in to speak at a city hearing and was not acknowledged. At a Public Works Commission hearing the same thing happened to me. I called in and was listening without any problem. I heard all the testimony and earlier agenda items. In that case I waited and waited to be called to speak and was never acknowledged. This was tremendously frustrating. When something happens once, it is possible to overlook it. However, when it happens twice, it leads me to believe that there is some kind of problem that may be beyond my own situation.

There are other instances when I have been able to call in and testify (both at City Hall and with the State legislature). My cell phone is a Verizon phone and I do not have any connection issues with it. Reception is clear.

I had meaningful comments to make on Item 11/Council File 17-0893 that were not raised by any of the other speakers on the topic. My comments have been raised in writing, but it seems that during hearings, the Committee tends to consider only those ideas brought forth by representatives of the industry who erect the temporary wall signs. On April 15th I wished to make one more effort to be heard on the topic of lighting of these signs (never before an issue but seen and documented with portable generator behind temporary wall sign walls in WLA!).

The request to have a rule related to having small mesh covered periodic openings in the walls to assure that there are no public safety hazards behind these sometimes-massive installations has not been discussed and considered. On April 15th there was brief discussion in the committee about how complaints would be fielded given that at long last permit information would be required to be posted on the temporary wall signs. If the advertising companies are the only parties notified of complaints about unclean situations or needs for graffiti removal, then how will the City Office of Beautification know if the company has been doing a good job with the required cleaning? They will not and will be unable to assess whether a renewal should be granted. Another mechanism is needed for logging complaints and requests for clean-up. The contact information must be clearly visible on each wall face (for example -- north, east, south and west if there are enclosures on all four sides of a property) so that the public has a reasonable chance of seeing the posting.

Although after-the-fact, please include these comments in the Council File.

Even more important, I am wondering how this connectivity problem can be addressed and whether there should be some announcement at the start of each meeting as to what the caller should do if there are problems with being recognized. Do you have any idea as to the extent of this problem? Do people merely get frustrated and hang up?

I suspect that even after the immediate threat of Covid-19 has passed, we may not see a full return to in-person testimony at City hearings. It is highly likely that a hybrid system will emerge with the continuation of call-in testimony. It is therefore very important to diagnose and remedy any problems with the system. One possibility that I entertained was to merely hang up and call in once again but I feared that a late entry would disqualify me from being in the queue (and I did not know the nature of my problem). Was I invisible to staff? If so, how were you then able to call upon me to unmute? (Would that have failed?)

Please let me know what I should do in the future should such a situation occur yet again. I worry for myself and for others.

Thank you,

Barbara Broide

From: Armando Bencomo <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Barbara Broide <bbroide@hotmail.com>
Cc: Daniel Luna <clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org>
Subject: Re: Public Comments Not Uploaded I am waiting to speak on item 11

Good Morning,

Public comment will be reopened so you have an opportunity to speak for one minute on Item 11. Please raise your virtual hand when the Committee Chair announces that additional Public Comment is being taken for this Item.

Thank you.

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 8:45 AM Barbara Broide <bbroide@hotmail.com> wrote:

310 429--8134 I have been waiting and can hear but have not been called on