



August 8, 2021

Sent via email: [kkelley@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:kkelley@clevelandcitycouncil.org)

**Open Letter to City Council President Kevin Kelley  
To Forge a New Path Forward Cleveland City Council Must Listen to Residents**

Dear Council President Kelley:

We are writing to follow up on your promised August vote on a public comment rule.

Our group -- representing residents and organizations from across all 17 wards -- has been advocating for Cleveland to join the vast majority of American cities by offering a public comment period at City Council and committee meetings. After months of organizing, including writing the legislative language, we believed Council was on the precipice of implementing a public comment period.

At the July 14th [Committee of the Whole meeting](#), you explained that the plan was for Council to hold a final Rules Committee meeting on public comment and then adopt the rule at the August 18 council meeting.

To date, Council has not scheduled a Rules Committee meeting or circulated proposed language for council members to consider.

The August council meeting is quickly approaching. When will these next steps occur? Our coalition includes residents, civic and labor groups, and the majority of Council members who have supported our specific proposal for months. We deserve a clear reason you have delayed progress toward a public comment rule. Time to review the proposal is particularly important because it's not yet clear that Council's version of a public comment rule will include key provisions -- like a process for committee hearing sign-ups or the ability for individuals to address issues not on Council's agenda -- that are vital for our group to support the language.

With the city set to receive \$511 million from the American Rescue Act and a potential bill for \$117 million for Progressive Field renovations, the need for public comment and resident involvement should be a priority.

As we previously offered, we are happy to discuss the [proposed public comments ordinance](#) and rule change policy crafted by Clevelanders for Public Comment member and attorney, Jessica Trivisonno.

We look forward to a timely response from your office by Friday, August 13th.

Sincerely,  
Clevelanders for Public Comment

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