



City of Alexandria

# Update from Subcommittee to Review Standing Committees

**City Council Legislative Meeting**

June 24, 2025



# Agenda



1. Background of Subcommittee
2. Benefits of Standing Committees
3. Proposed Standing Committee Structure
4. Timeline & Next Steps



# Summary

## Purpose of Presentation

- Discuss and review ways to increase modernization of government, community engagement, and information dissemination to Council
- Discuss the work of the Subcommittee to Review Standing Committees

## Council Action Needed

- Council will need to vote on if the work of the Subcommittee should move forward

## Key Elements of Discussion

- What is a standing committee?
- How do standing committees improve the work of City Council?
- What is the Subcommittee's draft proposal for consideration?

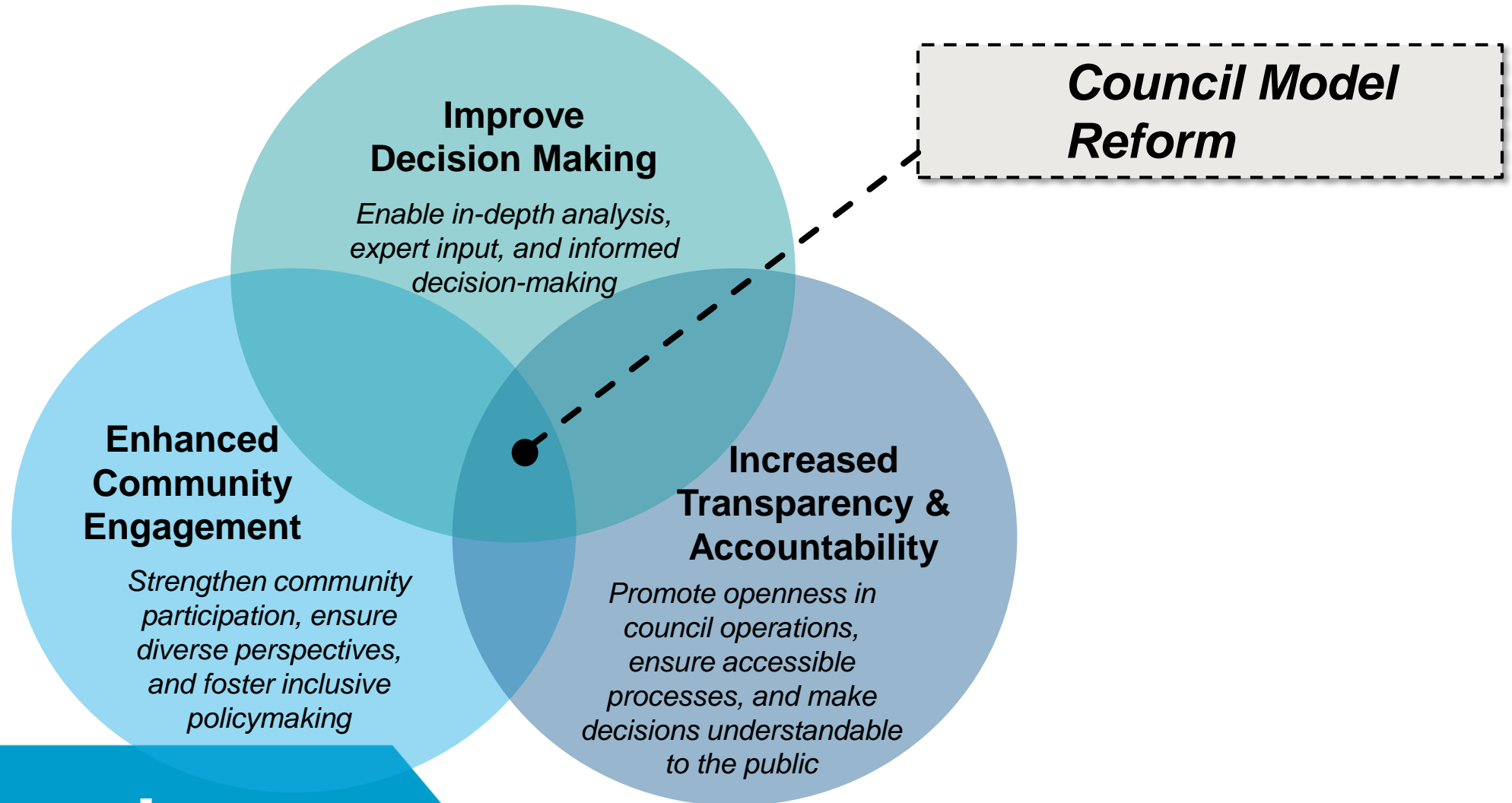


# Background

- **On December 14, 2024, City Council established the Subcommittee to Review Standing Committees.**
- **The purpose of the subcommittee was to:**
  - Research and evaluate the use of standing committees
  - Determine if/how standing committees could strengthen City governance
  - Better understand roles & responsibilities of committees
  - Make a recommendation to City Council



# Goals and Objectives



## Background



# Standing Committee Definition

The **Standing Committee Model** is a governance structure where city councils have **permanent** standing committees established to **address specific ongoing areas of responsibility** or policy, ensuring **consistent work and decision-making** in those areas over time. The City currently has one standing committee, the **City Council Naming Committee**.



# Benefits to City Council

## **Allow more time for informed decision-making**

- Standing committees will allow Councilmembers to engage with issues earlier and have a greater role in policy development

## **Develop areas of policy expertise**

- The specialization of the standing committee will help members develop deeper subject-matter expertise in connected sectors of the City's work

## **Increase opportunities for direct community feedback**

- Standing committees will also be a space for increased engagement with members of boards and commissions around topics that mean the most to them



# Benefits to Alexandria Residents

## Modern and effective governance

- Standing committees provide a systematic way for Council and the community to collaboratively explore new and creative solutions

## Increased responsiveness to local needs

- Since standing committees are more flexible than full Council meetings, they can be utilized to address emerging issues earlier in the policy development process

## Better policy outcomes

- Standing committees can delve deeply into complex issues, conduct hearings, gather expert opinions, and consider stakeholder feedback

**Ultimately standing committees will create a more knowledgeable, modernized, and effective city government that produces better results for all Alexandrians**





# Authority & Responsibilities

## **Conduct Legislative Review**

*Proposed legislation  
must be reviewed by  
the appropriate  
standing committee*

## **Make Policy Recommendations**

*Committees provide  
guidance on draft  
legislation from staff and  
advise the rest of council  
on key legislative  
matters*

## **Call Public Hearings**

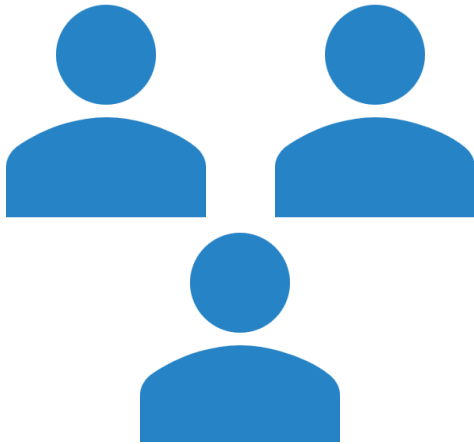
*Members of the public  
can be called to  
comment on and  
provide their expertise  
on issues*

# Recommendation



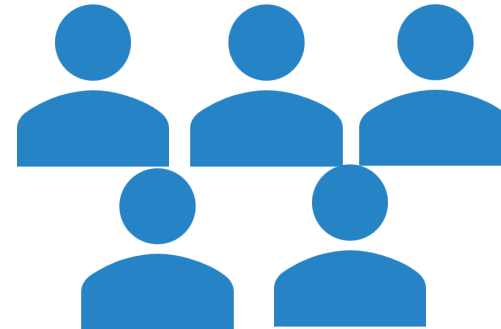
# Committee Composition

## Voting Members



**3** Councilmembers  
per standing  
committee

## Non-Voting Members



**1** Representative  
from each board or  
commission related  
to the standing  
committee

# Recommendation



# **Recommended Standing Committees:**

**Business,  
Workforce, and  
Economic  
Development**

**Budget and  
Administration**

**Parks, Culture, and  
Engagement**

**Transportation,  
Infrastructure, and  
Climate**

**Public Safety**

**Land Use, Housing,  
and Planning**

**Public Health and  
Quality of Life**

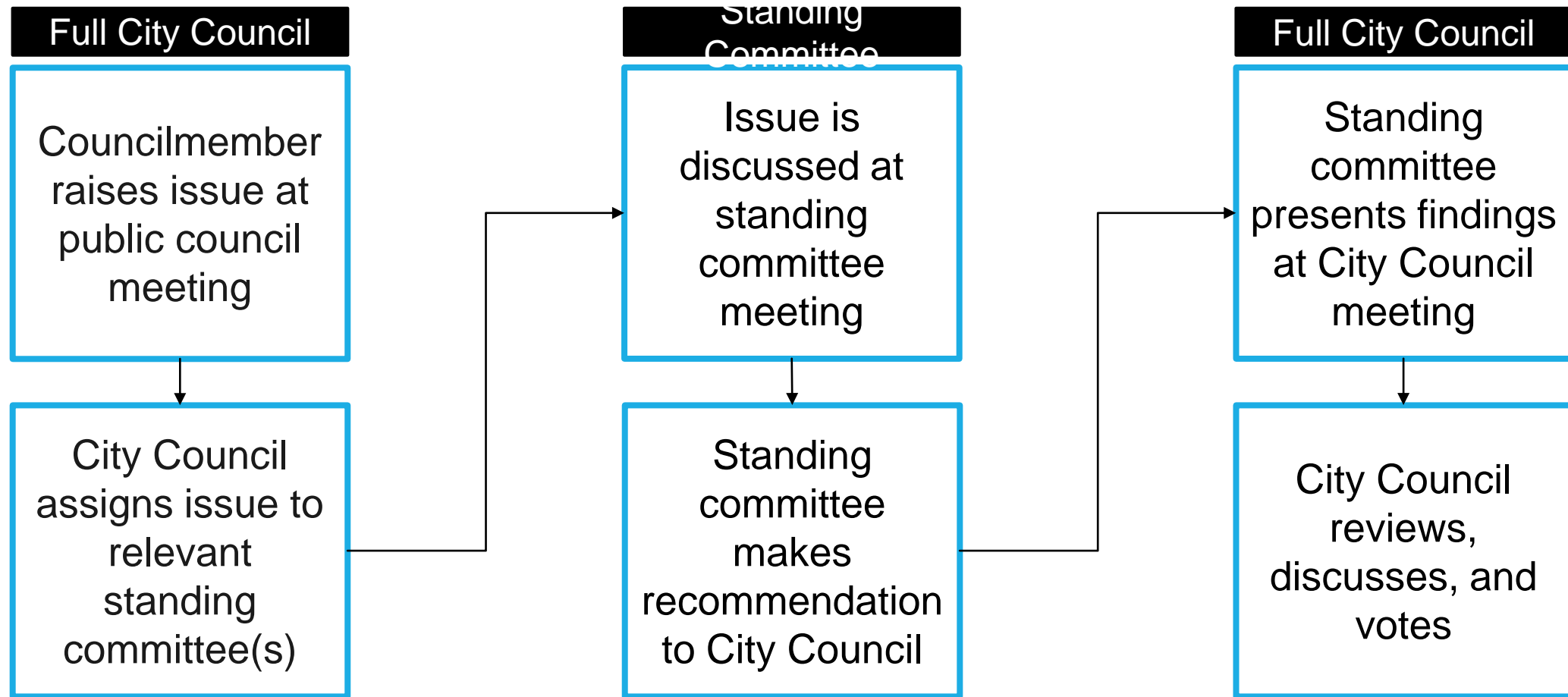


# Recommended Boards & Commissions Liaisons:

Business, Workforce & Economic Development	Budget and Administration	Parks, Culture & Engagement	Transportation, Infrastructure & Climate	Public Safety	Public Health & Quality of Life	Land Use, Housing & Planning
Alexandria Workforce Development Center	Audit & Finance Committee	Archaeological Commission	Environmental Policy Commission	Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force	Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission	Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee
Commission on Employment	Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee	Beautification Commission	Sanitation Authority/ Alexandria Renew Enterprises	Citizen Corps Council	Commission for Women	Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA)
Economic Opportunities Commission	Commission on Information Technology	Commission for the Arts	Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee	Community Criminal Justice Board	Commission on Aging	Board of Architectural Review
Industrial Development Authority	Legislative Subcommittee	George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee	Towing Advisory Commission	Community Policy and Management Team	Commission on Persons with Disabilities	Board of Zoning Appeals
Landmark Community Development Authority		Historic Alexandria Resources Commission	Traffic and Parking Board	Independent Community Policing Review Board	Community Services Board	Building Code Board of Appeals
Northern Virginia Community College Board		Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission	Transportation Commission	Local Emergency Planning Committee	Human Rights Commission	Carlyle/Eisenhower East Design Review Board
Visit Alexandria, Inc. Board of Governors		Library Board		Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Commission	Public Health Advisory Commission	Eisenhower West/ Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group
		Park and Recreation Commission			Social Services Advisory Board	Landlord-Tenant Relations Board
		Sister Cities Committee				Planning Commission
						Real Estate Assessments Board of Review
						Urban Design Advisory Committee



# Proposed Legislative Process

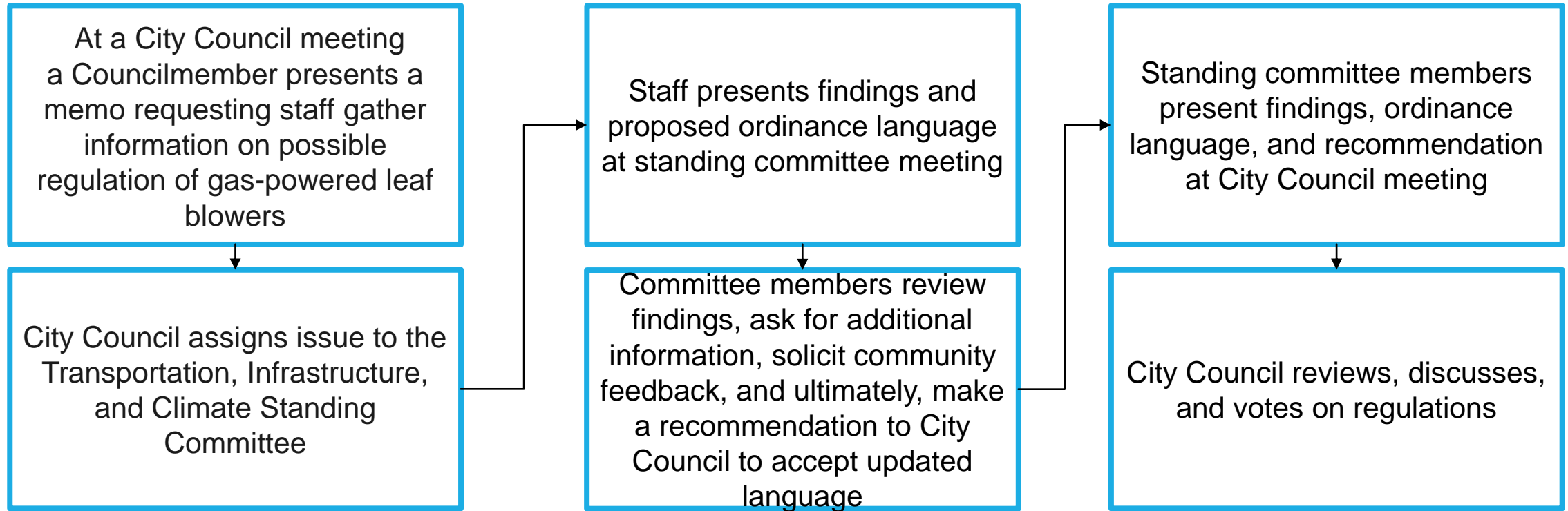


## Recommendation



# Proposed Legislative Process

Below is an example of how recent gas-powered leaf blower regulations would have worked in the Standing Committee model



Example



# Timeline

## June

Present Initial  
Findings to City  
Council

## October/November

Present Final  
Recommendation to City  
Council

## January

Select Committees;  
Council & Staff  
Trainings

## March/April

Committees Present  
Annual Workplan

## July - September

Present and Discuss  
Plan with Boards and  
Commission Members  
and Civic Associations

## End of November

City Council Votes on  
Ordinance

## February

Convene  
Standing  
Committees



# Conclusion

## Request

- Feedback on proposed topics, composition, and timing

## Next Step Options

- Option 1: Proceed as proposed
- Option 2: Proceed with modifications to topics, composition, or timing
- Option 3: Do not proceed with standing committee model

## Subcommittee Recommendation:

- The Subcommittee moves forward for a 2026 implementation of seven standing committees, comprised of three City Councilmembers and liaisons from applicable boards & commissions