

PROPOSED COUNCIL GUIDELINE 3.23 – INTERRUPTED MEETINGS

3.23 Interrupted Meetings

The Open Public Meetings Act (RCW Chapter 42.30) provides a procedure for the Council to continue its business in the event that any meeting is interrupted by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such Council or committee meeting “. . . unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are interrupting the meeting . . .” In that event, the members of the governing body conducting the meeting may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session or may adjourn the meeting and reconvene at another location selected by majority vote of the members. In such a session, final disposition may be taken only on matters appearing on the Council’s or committee’s agenda. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to RCW 42.30.050. Nothing in RCW 42.30.050 “. . . shall prohibit the governing body from establishing a procedure for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.” In accord with this statute, the Mayor or Committee Chair may admit individuals to the meeting who have not participated in the disturbance and are not responsible for disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.