

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF OMAHA
BOARD MEETINGS RULES

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§84-1408 through 1414 and the Housing Authority of the City of Omaha (OHA) By-Laws, Article III, Section 9, allow the Chairman of the Board of Commissioner to place reasonable limits upon public participation during public board meetings. To this end, the following rules have been established to govern the participation of the public during OHA Board Meetings.

Generally, time is reserved at the beginning of every OHA Board Meeting for public comments, although the Board has the discretion to hear comments at later times in the meeting.

- A. A person shall not be allowed to address the Board during meetings unless it pertains to business on the agenda. If a person wishes to speak on about an item that is not on the agenda, he or she must request that the item be placed upon the agenda no less than forty-eight hours in advance of a regularly scheduled board meeting. This request must be made in writing and must be submitted to OHA's Executive Director at OHA's main office. A majority vote of the Board of Commissioners will determine if the speaker shall be added to the agenda.
- B. A person shall not be allowed to speak until invited to do so by the Board.
- C. All speakers should state their name, address, and organization, interest, or person he or she represents before speaking.
- D. Each person will be allowed a reasonable period of time, not to exceed three (3) minutes, to speak.
- E. If any speaker has a question for one of the Board members or its staff, every reasonable effort will be made to answer the question. However, cross-examination or arguments will not be permitted.
- F. We ask all speakers to address their remarks or questions to the Board and not to others who may also be in the room.
- G. If any person is repetitious, or exceeds a reasonable time limit, we reserve the right to ask that person to please take a seat.
- H. We reserve the right to limit the number of speakers on any one agenda item to a reasonable number.
- I. All speakers must remain civil and may not use profanity.
- J. Any speaker who interrupts the meeting, speaks out of turn, or violates any of these rules will be declared out of order and will be asked to cease and desist addressing the Board immediately. If he or she does not do so, he or she will be asked to leave the meeting.

September 21, 2006