

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to exploring and implementing improvements to the current system for distributing and accessing audio recordings of City Council and Committee meetings.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Padilla – Blumenfield):

INSTRUCT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the Information Technology Agency (ITA) and Channel 35 to report in regard to exploring and implementing improvements to the current system for distributing and accessing audio recordings of City Council and Committee meetings to ensure it is more user-friendly, accessible, and modernized with said report to include, but not limited to:

- a. Exploring alternative audio distribution platforms such as Spotify or other podcast services, that provide broader and easier public access beyond the current YouTube based system.
- b. Enhancing the user experience by modernizing the organization and navigation of audio content by including features such as time stamps linked to agenda items to facilitate easier reference and navigation, improved scrubbing functionality to allow listeners to quickly and precisely skip to desired portions, and enabling audio playback without the requirement to have a video or app open continuously.
- c. Prioritizing platforms and solutions with optimized organization that increase accessibility, reduce barriers to public engagement and promote transparency.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On September 5, 2025, your Committee considered a Motion (Padilla – Blumenfield) relative to exploring and implementing improvements to the current system for distributing and accessing audio recordings of City Council and Committee meetings. According to the Motion, the current system for accessing audio recordings of Los Angeles City Council and Committee meetings is inadequate and fails to meet the needs of a modern, engaged public. While the city technically fulfills its obligation to make these recordings available, the platforms used, primarily YouTube, are not user-friendly, lack organization, and often make it difficult for the public to easily find and follow government proceedings. YouTube, while widespread, is poorly suited for this purpose. Users are frequently forced to keep a browser tab open to listen, and cannot easily browse or skip through topics due to the lack of time stamps and categorization. The current setup does not encourage civic engagement. To truly serve the public, the City should consider distributing meeting audio through more accessible and modern platforms like Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or

similar podcast-hosting services. These platforms offer several key advantages by being designed for passive listening, optimizing the recordings content with time stamps, and offering broad distribution to the public via notifications. The City should consider moving beyond outdated platforms and embrace solutions that actually serve the public in how they live, work, and access public information in 2025. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Government Operations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

PADILLA:	YES
LEE:	YES
JURADO:	YES

ARL
9/5/25

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-