

CITY COUNCIL QUORUM CONCERNS

Some questions and concerns have been raised about City Council members attending community events, social events, Chamber events, Community Partner events, personal calendar events, etc.

ANSWER:

When a majority of City Council members are scheduled to participate in their official capacity, a NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUORUM is published. Exceptions are listed in Texas Government Code 551.001

- "Quorum" means a majority of a governmental body, unless defined differently by applicable law or rule or the charter of the governmental body --- Texas Government Code 551.001 (6)
- When a quorum of the members of a governmental body assembles in an informal setting, such as a social occasion, it will be subject to the requirements of the Act if the members engage in a verbal exchange about public business or policy. The Act's definition of a meeting expressly excludes gatherings of a "quorum of a governmental body at a social function unrelated to the public business that is conducted by the body. ---Texas Government Code 551.001 (4)(B)

The term does not include the gathering of a quorum of a governmental body at a social function unrelated to the public business that is conducted by the body, the attendance by a quorum of a governmental body at a regional, state, or national convention or workshop, ceremonial event, or press conference, or the attendance by a quorum of a governmental body at a candidate forum, appearance, or debate to inform the electorate, if formal action is not taken and any discussion of public business is incidental to the social function, convention, workshop, ceremonial event, press conference, forum, appearance, or debate. ---Texas Government Code 551.001 (4)

