

## 09 November 2021 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 2

My name is Amy Fennel... and I'm coming here to speak on HB 2840 today. HB 2840 was a monumental piece of legislation that was passed during the last legislative session. Terry Canales authored this piece of legislation and what makes it such a phenomenal act is the fact that Terry Canales is a Democrat. The idea for this bill was brought to him by a far right watchdog group called OWLS. Now, He worked with OWLS and drafted this piece of legislation that enables residents, citizens to participate in government and speaking. He took that bill to Austin and it passed through the House and the Senate phenomenally, overwhelming.

Now, what is so amazing about this is that a Democrat and a far right group work together for the betterment of local government.

The reason I'm bringing up 2840 is because in the packet, about passing a resolution tonight, you're using 2840 as a legal argument against people speaking for their full three minutes. The part that if you want to limit residents to speaking three

minutes, fine.

But do not pervert the spirit of HB 2840 by giving the presiding officer the authority to reduce the amount of time that a resident has to speak just on a whim based upon how many speakers. People should be able to predict and know how much time that they have to speak because it takes a lot to get up here and speak. So, 2840 is not a viable argument to give just one person the ability to reduce a residence ability to participate local government.