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PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT REGARDING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS PARTICIPATING IN CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Downey, CA, March 25, 2021:

The City of Downey would like to clarify the following information as it relates to non-English speakers participating in City Council meetings.

Under the Brown Act, Government Code section 54954.3(b)(2), non-English speakers are provided double the allotted time to make their public comments utilizing a translator during public meetings. The purpose and intent of this subsection is to *“ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the legislative body of a local agency.”* All other speakers are allotted the standard speaking time as established by the ordinance or resolution.

The City encourages public participation in City meetings and has, and will continue to provide additional time and translation services for non-English speakers who need assistance. All other speakers will be given the allotted 3-minute speaking time as established by the Downey Municipal Code. This furthers our goal of promoting inclusivity to ensure all members of our community receive fair treatment and equal access to the resources they need, and deserve.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE