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52 U.S.C. § 30121(b)

(b) “Foreign national” defined

As used in this section, the term “foreign national” means--

(1) a foreign principal, as such term is defined by [section 611\(b\) of Title 22](#), except that the term “foreign national” shall not include any individual who is a citizen of the United States; or

(2) an individual who is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States (as defined in [section 1101\(a\)\(22\) of Title 8](#)) and who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence, as defined by [section 1101\(a\)\(20\) of Title 8](#).

22 U.S.C. § 611(c)

(c) Except [sic]¹ as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the term “agent of a foreign principal” means--

(1) any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign principal or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign principal, and who directly or through any other person--

(i) engages within the United States in political activities for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(ii) acts within the United States as a public relations counsel, publicity agent, information-service employee or political consultant for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(iii) within the United States solicits, collects, disburses, or dispenses contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for or in the interest of such foreign principal; or

(iv) within the United States represents the interests of such foreign principal before any agency or official of the Government of the United States; and

(2) any person who agrees, consents, assumes or purports to act as, or who is or holds himself out to be, whether or not pursuant to contractual relationship, an agent of a foreign principal as defined in clause (1) of this subsection.

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F.S. § 100.101. Special elections and special primary elections

A special election or special primary election shall be held in the following cases:

- (1) If no person has been elected at a general election to fill an office which was required to be filled by election at such general election.
- (2) If a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator or member of the state house of representatives.
- (3) If it is necessary to elect presidential electors, by reason of the offices of President and Vice President both having become vacant.
- (4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of member from Florida of the House of Representatives of Congress.

F.S. § 100.361. Municipal recall

(1) Application; definition. – Any member of the governing body of a municipality or charter county, hereinafter referred to in this section as “municipality,” may be removed from office by the electors of the municipality. When the official represents a district and is elected only by electors residing in that district, only electors from that district are eligible to sign the petition to recall that official and are entitled to vote in the recall election. When the official represents a district and is elected at-large by the electors of the municipality, all electors of the municipality are eligible to sign the petition to recall that official and are entitled to vote in the recall election. Where used in this section, the term “district” shall be construed to mean the area or region of a municipality from which a member of the governing body is selected by the electors from such area or region. Members may be removed from office pursuant to the procedures provided in this section. This method of removing members of the governing body of a municipality is in addition to any other method provided by state law.

(4) Recall election. – If the person designated in the petition files with the clerk, within 5 days after the last-mentioned notice, his or her written resignation, the clerk shall at once notify the governing body of that fact, and the resignation shall be irrevocable. The governing body shall then proceed to fill the vacancy according to the provisions of the appropriate law. In the absence of a resignation, the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the municipality is located shall fix a day for holding a recall election for the removal of those not resigning. Any such election shall be held not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the expiration of the 5-day period last-mentioned and at the same time as any other general or special election held

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within the period; but if no such election is to be held within that period, the judge shall call a special recall election to be held within the period aforesaid.

....

(6) Filling of vacancies; special elections. –

(a) If an election is held for the recall of members elected only at-large, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at the same election and shall be elected in the same manner as provided by the appropriate law for the election of candidates at general elections. Candidates shall not be elected to succeed any particular member. If only one member is removed, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the vacancy. If more than one member is removed, candidates equal in number to the number of members removed shall be declared elected to fill the vacancies; and, among the successful candidates, those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the longest terms. Cases of ties, and all other matters not herein specially provided for, shall be determined by the rules governing elections generally.

(b) If an election is held for the recall of members elected only from districts, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at a special election called by the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the districts are located not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the expiration of the recall election. The qualifying period, for purposes of this section, shall be established by the chief judge of the judicial circuit after consultation with the clerk. Any candidate seeking election to fill the unexpired term of a recalled district municipal official shall reside in the district represented by the recalled official and qualify for office in the manner required by law. Each candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office in the special district recall election shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the recalled official. Candidates seeking election to fill a vacancy created by the removal of a municipal official shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 106.

(c) When an election is held for the recall of members of the governing body composed of both members elected at-large and from districts, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at a special election as provided in paragraph (b).

(d) However, in any recall election held pursuant to paragraph (b) or paragraph (c), if only one member is voted to be removed from office, the vacancy created by the recall shall be filled by the governing body according to the provisions of the appropriate law for filling vacancies.

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(7) Effect of resignations. – If the member of the governing body being recalled resigns from office prior to the recall election, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy created according to the appropriate law for filling vacancies. If all of the members of the governing body are sought to be recalled and all of the members resign prior to the recall election, the recall election shall be canceled, and a special election shall be called to fill the unexpired terms of the resigning members. If all of the members of the governing body are sought to be recalled and any of the members resign prior to the recall election, the proceedings for the recall of members not resigning and the election of successors to fill the unexpired terms shall continue and have the same effect as though there had been no resignation....

F.S. § 106.011(8)

(8)(a) “Electioneering communication” means communication that is publicly distributed by a television station, radio station, cable television system, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, or telephone and that:

1. Refers to or depicts a clearly identified candidate for office without expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate but that is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate;
2. Is made within 30 days before a primary or special primary election or 60 days before any other election for the office sought by the candidate; and
3. Is targeted to the relevant electorate in the geographic area the candidate would represent if elected.

(b) The term “electioneering communication” does not include:

1. A communication disseminated through a means of communication other than a television station, radio station, cable television system, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, telephone, or statement or depiction by an organization, in existence before the time during which a candidate named or depicted qualifies for that election, made in that organization's newsletter, which newsletter is distributed only to members of that organization.
2. A communication in a news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of a radio station, television station, cable television system, or satellite system, unless the facilities are owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate. A news story distributed through the facilities owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate may nevertheless be exempt if it represents a bona fide news account communicated through a licensed broadcasting facility and the

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communication is part of a general pattern of campaign-related news accounts that give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the area.

3. A communication that constitutes a public debate or forum that includes at least two opposing candidates for an office or one advocate and one opponent of an issue, or that solely promotes such a debate or forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum, provided that:

a. The staging organization is either:

(I) A charitable organization that does not make other electioneering communications and does not otherwise support or oppose any political candidate or political party; or

(II) A newspaper, radio station, television station, or other recognized news medium; and

b. The staging organization does not structure the debate to promote or advance one candidate or issue position over another.

(c) For purposes of this chapter, an expenditure made for, or in furtherance of, an electioneering communication is not considered a contribution to or on behalf of any candidate.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, an electioneering communication does not constitute an independent expenditure and is not subject to the limitations applicable to independent expenditures.

F.S. § 106.011(9)

(9) “Electioneering communications organization” means any group, other than a political party, affiliated party committee, or political committee, whose election-related activities are limited to making expenditures for electioneering communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making electioneering communications and whose activities would not otherwise require the group to register as a political party or political committee under this chapter.

F.S. § 106.011(12)

(12)(a) “Independent expenditure” means an expenditure by a person for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or the approval or rejection of an issue, which expenditure is not controlled by, coordinated with, or made upon consultation with, any candidate, political committee, or agent of such candidate or committee. An expenditure for such purpose by a person having a contract with the candidate, political committee, or agent of such candidate or committee in a given election period is not an independent expenditure.

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(b) An expenditure for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate which is made by the national, state, or county executive committee of a political party, including any subordinate committee of the political party, an affiliated party committee, a political committee, or any other person is not considered an independent expenditure if the committee or person:

1. Communicates with the candidate, the candidate's campaign, or an agent of the candidate acting on behalf of the candidate, including a pollster, media consultant, advertising agency, vendor, advisor, or staff member, concerning the preparation of, use of, or payment for, the specific expenditure or advertising campaign at issue;
2. Makes a payment in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, at the request or suggestion of, or pursuant to a general or particular understanding with the candidate, the candidate's campaign, a political committee supporting the candidate, or an agent of the candidate relating to the specific expenditure or advertising campaign at issue;
3. Makes a payment for the dissemination, distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of a broadcast or a written, graphic, or other form of campaign material prepared by the candidate, the candidate's campaign, or an agent of the candidate, including a pollster, media consultant, advertising agency, vendor, advisor, or staff member;
4. Makes a payment based on information about the candidate's plans, projects, or needs communicated to a member of the committee or person by the candidate or an agent of the candidate, provided the committee or person uses the information in any way, in whole or in part, either directly or indirectly, to design, prepare, or pay for the specific expenditure or advertising campaign at issue;
5. After the last day of the qualifying period prescribed for the candidate, consults about the candidate's plans, projects, or needs in connection with the candidate's pursuit of election to office and the information is used in any way to plan, create, design, or prepare an independent expenditure or advertising campaign, with:
 - a. An officer, director, employee, or agent of a national, state, or county executive committee of a political party or an affiliated party committee that has made or intends to make expenditures in connection with or contributions to the candidate; or
 - b. A person whose professional services have been retained by a national, state, or county executive committee of a political party or an affiliated party committee that has made or intends to make expenditures in connection with or contributions to the candidate;

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6. After the last day of the qualifying period prescribed for the candidate, retains the professional services of a person also providing those services to the candidate in connection with the candidate's pursuit of election to office; or
7. Arranges, coordinates, or directs the expenditure, in any way, with the candidate or an agent of the candidate.

F.S. § 106.011(16)(a)

(16)(a) "Political committee" means:

1. A combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than an individual, that, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$500 during a single calendar year:
 - a. Accepts contributions for the purpose of making contributions to any candidate, political committee, affiliated party committee, or political party;
 - b. Accepts contributions for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or the passage or defeat of an issue;
 - c. Makes expenditures that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate or the passage or defeat of an issue; or
 - d. Makes contributions to a common fund, other than a joint checking account between spouses, from which contributions are made to any candidate, political committee, affiliated party committee, or political party;
2. The sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment by initiative who intends to seek the signatures of registered electors.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the following entities are not considered political committees for purposes of this chapter:

1. National political parties, the state and county executive committees of political parties, and affiliated party committees regulated by chapter 103.
2. Corporations regulated by chapter 607 or chapter 617 or other business entities formed for purposes other than to support or oppose issues or candidates, if their political activities are limited to contributions to candidates, political parties, affiliated party committees, or political committees or expenditures in support of or opposition to an issue from corporate or business funds and if no contributions are received by such corporations or business entities.
3. Electioneering communications organizations as defined in subsection (9).

F.S. § 106.021 – Campaign treasurers; deputies; primary and secondary depositories

(1)(a) Each candidate for nomination or election to office and each political committee shall appoint a campaign treasurer. Each person who seeks to qualify for nomination or election to, or retention in, office shall appoint a campaign treasurer and designate a primary campaign depository before qualifying for office. Any person

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who seeks to qualify for election or nomination to any office by means of the petitioning process shall appoint a treasurer and designate a primary depository on or before the date he or she obtains the petitions. At the same time a candidate designates a campaign depository and appoints a treasurer, the candidate shall also designate the office for which he or she is a candidate. If the candidate is running for an office that will be grouped on the ballot with two or more similar offices to be filled at the same election, the candidate must indicate for which group or district office he or she is running. This subsection does not prohibit a candidate, at a later date, from changing the designation of the office for which he or she is a candidate. However, if a candidate changes the designated office for which he or she is a candidate, the candidate must notify all contributors in writing of the intent to seek a different office and offer to return pro rata, upon their request, those contributions given in support of the original office sought. This notification shall be given within 15 days after the filing of the change of designation and shall include a standard form developed by the Division of Elections for requesting the return of contributions. The notice requirement does not apply to any change in a numerical designation resulting solely from redistricting. If, within 30 days after being notified by the candidate of the intent to seek a different office, the contributor notifies the candidate in writing that the contributor wishes his or her contribution to be returned, the candidate shall return the contribution, on a pro rata basis, calculated as of the date the change of designation is filed. Up to a maximum of the contribution limits specified in s. 106.08, a candidate who runs for an office other than the office originally designated may use any contribution that a donor does not request be returned within the 30-day period for the newly designated office, provided the candidate disposes of any amount exceeding the contribution limit pursuant to the options in s. 106.11(5)(b) and (c) or s. 106.141(4)(a) 1., 2., or 4.; notwithstanding, the full amount of the contribution for the original office shall count toward the contribution limits specified in s. 106.08 for the newly designated office. A person may not accept any contribution or make any expenditure with a view to bringing about his or her nomination, election, or retention in public office, or authorize another to accept such contributions or make such expenditure on the person's behalf, unless such person has appointed a campaign treasurer and designated a primary campaign depository. A candidate for an office voted upon statewide may appoint not more than 15 deputy campaign treasurers, and any other candidate or political committee may appoint not more than 3 deputy campaign treasurers. The names and addresses of the campaign treasurer and deputy campaign treasurers so appointed shall be filed with the officer before whom such candidate is required to qualify or with whom such political committee is required to register pursuant to s. 106.03.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (d), each candidate and each political committee shall also designate one primary campaign depository for the purpose of depositing all

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contributions received, and disbursing all expenditures made, by the candidate or political committee. The candidate or political committee may also designate one secondary depository in each county in which an election is held in which the candidate or committee participates. Secondary depositories shall be for the sole purpose of depositing contributions and forwarding the deposits to the primary campaign depository. Any bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to transact business in this state may be designated as a campaign depository. The candidate or political committee shall file the name and address of each primary and secondary depository so designated at the same time that, and with the same officer with whom, the candidate or committee files the name of his, her, or its campaign treasurer pursuant to paragraph (a). In addition, the campaign treasurer or a deputy campaign treasurer may deposit any funds which are in the primary campaign depository and which are not then currently needed for the disbursement of expenditures into a separate interest-bearing account in any bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to transact business in this state. The separate interest-bearing account shall be designated “(name of candidate or committee) separate interest-bearing campaign account.” In lieu thereof, the campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer may purchase a certificate of deposit with such unneeded funds in such bank, savings and loan association, or credit union. The separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit shall be separate from any personal or other account or certificate of deposit. Any withdrawal of the principal or earned interest or any part thereof shall only be made from the separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit for the purpose of transferring funds to the primary account and shall be reported as a contribution.

(c) Any campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer appointed pursuant to this section shall, before such appointment may become effective, have accepted appointment to such position in writing and filed such acceptance with the officer before whom the candidate is required to qualify or with the officer with whom the political committee is required to file reports. An individual may be appointed and serve as campaign treasurer of a candidate and a political committee or two or more candidates and political committees. A candidate may appoint herself or himself as campaign treasurer.

(d) Any political committee which deposits all contributions received in a national depository from which the political committee receives funds to contribute to state and local candidates shall not be required to designate a campaign depository in the state.

(2) A candidate or political committee may remove his, her, or its campaign treasurer or any deputy treasurer. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of a campaign

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treasurer before compliance with all obligations of a campaign treasurer under this chapter, the candidate or political committee shall appoint a successor and certify the name and address of the successor in the manner provided in the case of an original appointment. No resignation shall be effective until it has been submitted to the candidate or committee in writing and a copy thereof has been filed with the officer before whom the candidate is required to qualify or the officer with whom the political committee is required to file reports. No treasurer or deputy treasurer shall be deemed removed by a candidate or political committee until written notice of such removal has been given to such treasurer or deputy treasurer and has been filed with the officer before whom such candidate is required to qualify or with the officer with whom such committee is required to file reports.

(3) No contribution or expenditure, including contributions or expenditures of a candidate or of the candidate's family, shall be directly or indirectly made or received in furtherance of the candidacy of any person for nomination or election to political office in the state or on behalf of any political committee except through the duly appointed campaign treasurer of the candidate or political committee, subject to the following exceptions:

- (a) Independent expenditures;
- (b) Reimbursements to a candidate or any other individual for expenses incurred in connection with the campaign or activities of the political committee by a check drawn upon the campaign account and reported pursuant to s. 106.07(4). The full name of each person to whom the candidate or other individual made payment for which reimbursement was made by check drawn upon the campaign account shall be reported pursuant to s. 106.07(4), together with the purpose of such payment;
- (c) Expenditures made indirectly through a treasurer for goods or services, such as communications media placement or procurement services, campaign signs, insurance, or other expenditures that include multiple integral components as part of the expenditure and reported pursuant to s. 106.07(4)(a) 13.; or
- (d) Expenditures made directly by any affiliated party committee or political party regulated by chapter 103 for obtaining time, space, or services in or by any communications medium for the purpose of jointly endorsing three or more candidates, and any such expenditure may not be considered a contribution or expenditure to or on behalf of any such candidates for the purposes of this chapter.

(4) A deputy campaign treasurer may exercise any of the powers and duties of a campaign treasurer as set forth in this chapter when specifically authorized to do so by the campaign treasurer and the candidate, in the case of a candidate, or the

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campaign treasurer and chair of the political committee, in the case of a political committee.

(5) For purposes of appointing a campaign treasurer and designating a campaign depository, candidates for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket shall be considered a single candidate.

Sec. 3.04 – Council Members and Mayor Vacancies; Removal from Office.

(a)

Vacancies.

(1) A.

Vacancies on the Council caused by death, resignation (except for resignations as provided for in subsection B), refusal of any Council Member to serve, removal of any member of the Council, the moving of a Council Member from the electoral district from which the Council Member is elected, or for any other reason shall be filled as provided for herein by a majority of the remaining members of the Council and such vacancies shall be filled by the Council within forty-five (45) days after such vacancy occurs. The election to replace an appointed Council Member with an elected Council Member shall take place at the next primary and general municipal election for which the qualifying period has not begun at the time of the vacancy. When such elections are not in a year which would constitute the commencement of a new term, the term for that person so elected shall end at the time the term of the person who originally vacated the position would have ended.

B.

Vacancies on the Council caused by certain types of resignation:

1. When the resignation is submitted prior to the beginning of the qualifying period for the municipal elections to take place in the year the resignation is submitted; and

2. The effective date of the resignation is later than the date the resignation was submitted and is later than the beginning of the qualifying period for the municipal elections to take place in the year the resignation is submitted;

then the election to fill this seat with an elected Council Member shall take place in the primary and general municipal elections to take place in the year the resignation was submitted. The person so elected shall take office on January 2 of the year following the election. However, where a resignation would result in a district being unrepresented for more than

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50 days, the majority of the remaining members of the Council may within 45 days of the actual vacancy occurring appoint a replacement who shall serve until the person elected as provided herein takes office.

C.

Appointed Council Members shall be a resident of the district in which the vacancy occurs and shall have and possess all the qualifications required for elected Council Members. Appointed Council Members shall serve until replaced by an elected Council Member as provided herein. Appointments or elections to fill a vacancy shall not change the base year for, or the date of commencement of, the terms of each district established in Section 3.02.

- (2) Vacancy of the Mayor caused by death, resignation, refusal of the Mayor to serve, removal, or for any other reason, shall be filled as provided for in Section 4.03 below. When the vacancy occurs within eight months of a regularly scheduled City election and prior to the beginning of the qualifying period for that election, an election for Mayor shall be held as part of that election. The Acting Mayor shall serve until the newly elected Mayor is sworn in. The newly elected Mayor shall serve the unexpired term of the previous Mayor if the election is one in which there would not normally be a Mayoral race.

If the vacancy occurs at any other time and would require an individual to serve as Acting Mayor for a period of greater than six months, then City Council shall schedule a special primary and general election for Mayor to be completed within five months of the occurrence of the vacancy. City Council shall by ordinance provide for the dates of the elections and the length of the qualifying period which qualifying period shall in no event be less than one week. The individual elected in this manner shall take office one month after being declared elected by City Council and shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term of the previous Mayor.

(b) *Extraordinary Vacancies.* In the event that all members of the City Council are removed by death, disability or forfeiture of office, the governor shall appoint an interim City Council that shall call a special election to fill all City Council positions. Should three or more vacancies occur simultaneously on Council, the remaining members shall within fifteen (15) days call a special election to fill the vacant City Council positions.

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(c) *Removal of Council Members or Mayor.* The City Council shall have power and authority to remove from office any members of the City Council or the Mayor for corruption, criminal misconduct, gross malfeasance in office, or for violation of the City Code of Ethics, after due written notice is delivered to the accused and the accused has an opportunity to be heard and defend against the accusations. The aforementioned written notice, before being delivered to the accused, must be approved by at least two-thirds of the existing membership of City Council that is eligible to vote on the matter. A member of City Council or the Mayor may only be removed from office upon a vote wherein no less than two-thirds of the existing membership of City Council that is eligible to vote on the matter affirmatively vote for such action. Subsequent to the aforementioned written notice being delivered to the accused, the Council by a vote wherein no less than two-thirds of the existing membership of City Council that is eligible to vote on the matter affirmatively vote for such action shall have the authority to suspend a member or the Mayor pending the disposition of charges for removal. The accused member shall not be entitled to participate in the deliberations or decision in relation to the suspension or removal except the accused shall have the right to defend against the charges as provided in this Section 3.04(c). Eligible to vote as used in this Section 3.04(c) means any member of City Council, whether present at the meeting or not, who is not prohibited by state law from voting because of a conflict and is not prohibited from voting because of a provision of this Charter. Where a suspension of a Council Member or the Mayor occurs pursuant to this section of the Charter, the suspended official shall have the right to an immediate hearing upon demand to determine if there is sufficient evidence to establish the following two elements: (1) that probable cause exists to believe that the charges are true; and (2) that, if true, the charges would be grounds for removal. This hearing shall be held and the matter shall be decided by City Council. The rules of procedure shall be the same as those which apply to the hearing for removal. If City Council does not find by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the existing membership of City Council that is eligible to vote on the matter that the evidence produced at the hearing is sufficient to establish the aforementioned two elements, the suspension shall terminate immediately and the official shall be reinstated pending a final hearing on removal.

A final hearing for removal must take place and a decision rendered within ninety days after receipt by the accused of the above mentioned written notice unless both the City Council, by majority vote of those members eligible to vote on the matter, and the accused agree to extend the time. In order for City Council to remove the accused official from office, Council must find that the preponderance of the substantial competent evidence presented at the hearing supports the charges which

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are the basis for the removal proceeding. If, after the final hearing, the City Council is unable to support such a finding by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the existing membership of City Council that is eligible to vote on the matter, any suspension of the accused shall terminate and the accused shall be reinstated to office for any unfinished portion of the official's term. During a hearing regarding suspension or removal, the accused shall have the right to present evidence and testimony and to cross examine witnesses.