

# 'Shall' removed from Glendale council rules

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GLENDALE - A 30-minute debate at the February Glendale council meeting led the Law Committee to change a paragraph of the revised council rules.

The word "shall" was included in one of three paragraphs council's Law Committee introduced to change the rules of council.

Some councilmembers said the word is an important one because of the undertones it carries for councilmembers.

The originally proposed rules stated that "the (council) member shall promptly notify the mayor or village administration" of complaints that are "serious in the judgment of the member," and that regard the operation of the village not involving personnel matters.

Village administration would then assign a case number to the complaint to track it for the person complaining.

Whether the word "shall" would make it mandatory to take all complaints to the village concerned some councilmembers.

"'Shall' has legal implications," said councilmember Monica Alles-White in February. "'Shall' means I have to do it. I wouldn't have the discretion. I've been elected to have discretion."

Councilmember Alan Hoeweler said there wasn't a definition of a serious complaint.

Village Solicitor Mike Honerlaw recommended in February that the paragraph be removed.

The revised wording that was approved at the March 5 meeting states that a councilmember should encourage the person complaining to take the matter to village administration.

The new paragraph states: "Whenever any person or organization contacts a member of the legislative authority with a reasonable complaint against a village employee, said member will encourage the complainant to notify the mayor and/or village administration in writing about the nature of the complaint."

The Law Committee recommended the new wording to council.

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