

## Sample Speaking Outline for Council or Committee Presentation

### Topic Example: Opposition to Proposed Bylaw Affecting Local Zoning

#### 1. Opening (30 seconds)

"Good evening, Mayor and Council. My name is [Your Full Name], and I live in [Your Neighborhood or Community]. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today."

#### 2. State Your Position Clearly (30 seconds)

"I'm here to express my concern about [Bylaw Number or Item on the Agenda], which would [brief description - e.g., rezone residential areas to commercial use, remove green space protections, etc.]. I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal."

#### 3. Explain the Impact (2 minutes)

This is the heart of your message. Focus on how the change affects real people, not just policy.

"This bylaw would allow multi-story commercial buildings on a quiet residential street. That means increased traffic, noise, and safety risks for families like mine. It also contradicts the city's own urban planning guidelines from 2021, which promised to preserve green space in this area."

You can also include:

- Statistics
- Brief personal stories
- Cited expert opinions or city reports

#### 4. Propose a Constructive Solution (1 minute)

Even if you're opposing something, try to show you're reasonable and solution-oriented.

"If more commercial development is needed, perhaps the city can prioritize areas already zoned for that use, or hold a broader consultation with residents before proceeding."

## 5. Closing & Call to Action (30 seconds)

"Please delay a decision on this bylaw until proper community consultation can occur. I urge you to listen to residents and prioritize the long-term livability of our neighborhoods."

"Thank you again for your time. I'd be happy to answer any questions."