

## **YOUNG AND COLE TO INTRODUCE CHANGE TO RULES GOVERNING VACANCY NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

*Change in rules would give community larger role in selecting replacement council members.*

Press Release, January 31, 2011

City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young and Councilman William H. Cole IV will introduce today a change to the rules governing member vacancies on the city council. The rule change, which will be submitted during Monday’s council meeting, will reduce the number of elected officials participating in the vacancy nominating process and substantially increase the number of community members who participate in nominating a replacement council member.

Council President Young and Councilman Cole’s proposed change to Rule 5-11 would require the city council President to appoint a 13-member nominating committee within one week of a vacancy occurring. The committee would be comprised of 11 residents who are voters in the district with the vacancy, plus two city council members from abutting districts. The 11 residents would have to include at least seven officers of community, neighborhood or improvement associations; two representatives from faith-based organizations; and two representatives from business establishments.

All interviews, meetings, deliberations, votes, decisions and other actions of the Nominating Committee would be conducted in hearings open to the public.

“The rule change that Councilman Cole and I are proposing would greatly increase transparency around the vacancy nominating process and ensure that voters living in the district with a vacancy have a seat at the nominating table,” Council President Young said.

Councilman Cole said that the existing process for filling council vacancies makes it difficult to properly gauge the will of the district. The changes will ensure that the residents of the impacted district have the greatest say in who leads them through the remainder of a particular term.

“After going through this process recently it was clear to me that the council needed to take a closer look at the nominating process,” Councilman Cole said. “I was pleased to work with the Council President on a process that puts the decision making into the hands of the residents.”