

**From:** June Kachtik  
**To:** <Digital Opposition>  
**Date:** Thu, 16 Oct 2008 07:00:17 EDT  
**Subject:** Meeting of the Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee

The Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee met on 10/15/08. Item 6 was “Briefing and possible actions regarding Chapter 10, Administrative Changes, Revision L, Electrical Code, presented by Rod Sanchez, Director, Planning and Development Services Dept.

City Council persons attending were chair Diane Cibrian (#8), Lordes Galvan (#5), Jennifer Ramos (#3), and Louis Rowe (#9).

The major changes to Chapter 10 are:

1. The Electrical Supervisory Board will become an advisory board only.
2. Staff of the Planning and Development Services Department will administer the code – including digital billboards – with no input from the Board, unless there is an appeal.\*\*

City Council members Galvan and Ramos stressed their desire to pick their representatives to the Electrical Advisory Board. Diane stated that the council does not want at large appointments. Mr. Sanchez said that he would be happy to meet with any of them to develop a wording other than what is in the proposed changes for Chapter 10 (the representation of the board remained the same it now is). Rowe said he liked the ordinance changes, but the board should have a balance of members with knowledge and representing the general public.

When it came to the “Citizens to be Heard” part of the meeting, several groups supported the changes, including a professional organization of electricians, another of commercial businesses, another of building engineers, and the Apartment Association. Clear Channel was represented by Frank Burney, who said that the Electrical Supervisory Board has been confused about its role, creating ill will. He said these changes will streamline the system and bring about greater consistency. The attorney for Clear Channel also supported the changes and asked that a billboard representative be included on the board (someone who “understands” billboards).

An electrician pointed out that the National Electrical Code had a superior document regarding the administrative section of the ordinance. He also thought that the board ought to have a representative from the Fire Dept.

Another electrician said that the changes would give one individual too much power.

Public comment stopped, and Galvan moved to pass the changes. I said that I had signed up and had not had a chance to speak. Evidently, Cibrian had not been given this sign up sheet, which included other names as well. I spoke against the changes.

Someone from the Electrical Supervisory Board spoke in opposition to the changes. (I think he is the chairman.)

It was 3:00 p.m. and the room had to be vacated for another meeting. Galvan removed her motion. Cibrian said this item would be the first one on next month's agenda and that everyone who had not yet spoken and others who wanted to speak would be recognized at that meeting. The third Wednesday of the month is on 11/19/08.

*\*\* Section 10-1103.1 Application for appeal. A person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the code official to the board. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent of this code or the rules legally adopted there under, have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this code do not fully apply, or an equally good or better form of construction is proposed.*

Note: The same persons will not be allowed to speak at the next meeting.

Note: Earlier in the day, I had asked T. C. Broadnax when the City Council would be addressing whether or not to make the pilot digital ordinance permanent. He said he expected it to come up in January 2009. I did not think to ask him if there was to be a report from staff on the pilot digital ordinance prior to that date.

Note: To find the summary and the full text of the administrative changes, go to [www.sanantonio.gov](http://www.sanantonio.gov), Planning and Development Services Dept.