

From: Vazquez, Res
To: McGuire, Dianne
Subject: Public Bodies cannot ban public comment criticism at public meetings
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 10:01:14 AM
Attachments: [Mnyofu v Board of Education of Rich Township High School District 227.pdf](#)

The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires the public body to provide some opportunity for public comment. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g). The Attorney General says that means every meeting of a public body must include a public comment period. A public body can adopt policies for the public comment period, including imposing time limits on speakers and establishing and enforcing measures to deal with disruptive members of the public. A public body cannot, however, adopt or apply a rule that prohibits criticism of public employees according to a federal district court ruling in *Mnyofu v. Bd of Education of Rich Township H.S. Dist.* (N.E. Dist., April 5, 2016).