

Name of Special Committees	Number of members
Special Committee on Metropolitan Administration and Finance System	15
Special Committee on U.S. Military Installations Measures	14
Special Committee on Urban Safety & Security	15
Special Committee on Revitalization of Yokohama's Economy	14
Special Committee on International & Cultural City	14
Special Committee on Yokohama Regional Planning	14
Special Investigation Committee on Establishing Yokohama City Council Fundamental Ordinance	12

## Special Committees

Special Committees are established in order to investigate specific agendas. They are set up in accordance with requests of the City Council. Currently the Yokohama City Council has 7 Special Committees. 6 Special Committees delve into the themes on the entrusted specific social issue by the end of term. Another Special Committee investigates into enactment of Fundamental Ordinance of City Council. Special Committees are also established to determine initial budgets and examine the annual settlement of accounts.

## Citizens and Council

### Petitions and appeals

All citizens shall have the right to present opinions and demands through "Seigan" (petition) and "Chinjo" (appeal) to city policies.

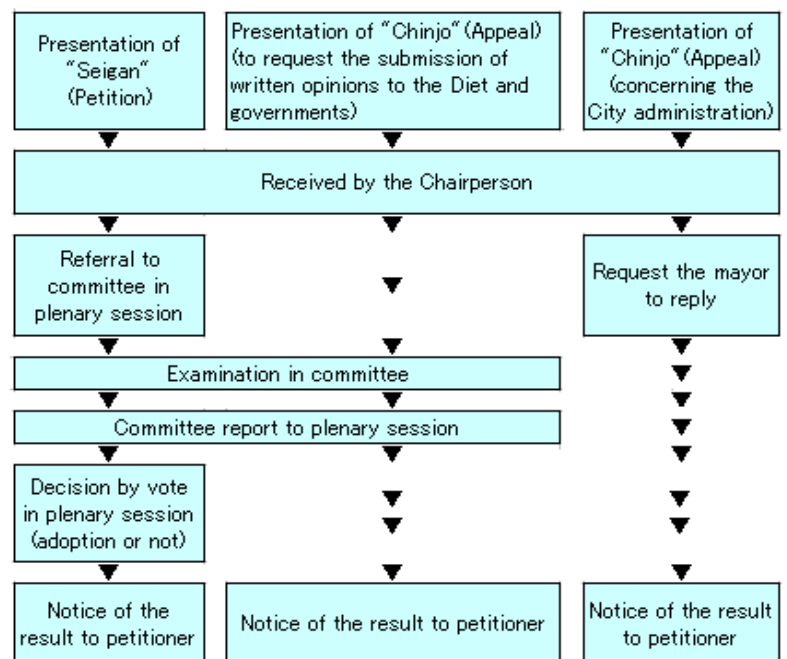
"Seigan" must be introduced by a council member, whereas "Chinjo" does not need such an introduction.

Final decisions on whether to adopt or reject the "Seigan" are made by the plenary session after it has been referred to, and examined by, an appropriate committee. The petitioner is then informed of the results.

"Chinjo" to request submission of the written opinions to the Diet, Prefecture, etc. are referred to an appropriate committee. Once the conclusions of the committee's investigation have been reported to the plenary session, the petitioner is informed.

The Chairperson requests that the Mayor respond directly to "Chinjo" regarding requests on city administration. The petitioner is then informed of the conclusion.

Flow chart of Examining Petitions and Appeals



### Record

A summary of plenary session debates, "The Minutes of the City Council", and records of Standing and Special Committees taken after the second regular session in 1998, as well as records from Conferences of all members taken after July 1, 2000, may be viewed at the city's Public Information Center. Records for the Council Steering Committee and the board meetings of Special Committees after July 1, 2000 are available for viewing at the City Council Bureau.

### Guide to visit plenary sessions

Anyone may observe plenary sessions. If you wish to observe, please ask for a ticket at the reception located on the ground floor of City Council Hall. Tickets are distributed in the order of arrival.

You can watch the proceedings of Standing Committees, Special Committees, board meetings of Special Committee on initial budgets and that on annual settlement of accounts, Council Steering Committee and Conferences of all members, live on monitor at the City Council Hall. There are no formalities and no reservations are required to view the monitored sessions.

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