



CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall
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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 3

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking_number}}

TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: City Clerk's Office

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2022

SUBJECT:

Remote Teleconferenced City Council and Commission Meetings – Reauthorization

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution to reauthorize remote teleconferenced City Council and Board and Commission meetings for 30 days, through April 6, 2022, as allowed by Assembly Bill 361 amending the Brown Act, based upon the Governor's emergency proclamation and findings that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BACKGROUND:

At its October 18, 2021, City Council meeting, the Council adopted Resolution No. 100 (2021) authorizing continued remote meetings of the Council and its subordinate legislative bodies due to the imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees due to possible transmission of COVID-19 and the recent spread of variants. The resolution became effective October 18, 2021 through November 17, 2021, or until the City Council adopts a subsequent resolution. AB 361 requires confirming the emergency circumstances 30 days after the first teleconference meeting and every 30 days thereafter. At the October 18 meeting, the Council accepted staff's recommendation to pass a resolution at every meeting to ensure there is no gap in the effectiveness of authorizing resolutions. The action being requested at this March 7th meeting is to adopt a resolution reauthorizing remote teleconferenced Council and Commission meetings per the requirements of Assembly Bill 361.

It was noted in the original resolution that current health orders require masking in all indoor facilities due to health and safety concerns. While San Mateo County Health Order No. c19-12 (which required masking in workplaces and public settings) was rescinded on February 16, 2022, the Delta and Omicron variants are highly transmissible in indoor settings and requires multi-component prevention strategies to reduce their spread. Thus, as of February 16, 2022, the California Department of Public Health still requires masking for unvaccinated people (and recommends the practice for all) in indoor public settings as well as in state and local government offices that serve the public. Returning to meeting in the Council Chambers or smaller conference rooms means being in an enclosed space for meetings that commonly last for one to five hours and would seem to create additional exposure for participants to a possible transmission of the virus. This health advice is still in place.

BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no budget impact for taking this action as all software and hardware needs to meet remotely have already been purchased and are in use.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Adoption of this resolution authorizing remote teleconferenced meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commission is not a project subject to CEQA, because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).)

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

STAFF CONTACT

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