



Legislation Text

File #: 21-765, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION of the City of San Leandro City Council finding that there is a proclaimed State of Emergency; finding that public health authorities recommend social distancing and mandate masking such that meeting in person would still present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees as a result of the State of Emergency; and authorizing remote teleconferenced meetings of the legislative bodies of the City of San Leandro for the 30 day period beginning January 4, 2022 pursuant to AB 361

WHEREAS, all meetings of the City of San Leandro's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 - 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the City's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the State prepare for a broader spread of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-024 ratifying the proclamation of a local emergency by the Director of Emergency Services due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow local legislative bodies to conduct meetings telephonically or by other means; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Executive Order N-29-20, staff set up virtual meetings for all City Council meetings and meetings of all legislative bodies within the City; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which, effective September 30, 2021, ends the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 that allows local legislative bodies to conduct meetings telephonically or by other means; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361 (2021) which allows for local legislative bodies and advisory bodies to continue to conduct meetings via teleconferencing under specified conditions and includes a requirement that the City Council make specified findings. AB 361 (2021) took effect immediately; and

WHEREAS, AB 361 (2021) requires that the Governor declare a State of Emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8625; and

WHEREAS, AB 361 (2021) further requires that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, requires that the legislative body determine that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the City, specifically, Governor Newsom has declared a State of Emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, since issuing Executive Order N-08-21, the highly contagious Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19 have emerged, causing an increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the State and Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2021, in response to the Delta variant of COVID-19, the Alameda County Health Officer issued an order for nearly all individuals to wear masks when inside public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Alameda County Department of Public Health continue to recommend physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others outside of the household; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health requires universal masking indoors statewide December 15, 2021 to January 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, because of the rise in cases due to the Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19, the City is concerned about the health and safety of all individuals who attend City Council meetings and meetings of the City’s other legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds that the presence of COVID-19 and the Delta and Omicron variants would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, including the City’s legislative bodies and staff, should the City’s legislative bodies hold in person meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City shall ensure that it’s meetings comply with the provisions required by AB 361 (2021) for holding teleconferenced meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of San Leandro City Council hereby RESOLVES as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct, and incorporated into this Resolution.
2. In compliance with AB 361 (2021), and in order to continue to conduct teleconference meetings without complying with the usual teleconference meeting requirements of the Brown Act, the City Council makes the following findings:
 - a) The City Council has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and
 - b) The state of emergency, as declared by the Governor, and the local emergency proclaimed by the Director of Emergency Services and ratified by the City Council, continues to directly impact the ability of the City Council and the City’s legislative bodies, as well as staff and members of the public, from meeting safely in person; and
 - c) The CDC and the Alameda County Department of Public Health continue to recommend physical distancing of at least six feet due to COVID-19 and as a result of the presence of COVID-19 and the Delta and Omicron variants, meeting in person would present imminent

risks to the health or safety of attendees, the legislative bodies and staff.

3. City Council and the City's legislative bodies may continue to meet remotely in compliance with AB 361, in order to better ensure the health and safety of the public and staff.
4. The City Council will revisit the need to conduct meetings remotely within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution.