

RESOLUTION NO. 1089-21**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SUNNYVALE MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO
GOVERNMENT CODE SUBDIVISION 54953(E) (AB 361) TO
CONTINUE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CITY
COUNCIL AND BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEES DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950, et seq., hereinafter referred to as the “Brown Act”) requires that public meeting agendas be posted at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act allows a local legislative body to hold public meetings by teleconference and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to attend and to address the local legislative body, as long as the following requirements are met: (1) each teleconference location from which a member is participating is noticed on the agenda; (2) each teleconference location is accessible to the public; (3) members of the public must be able to address the body at each teleconference location; (4) at least one member of the legislative body must be physically present at the location specified in the meeting agenda; and (5) during teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body must participate from locations within the local body’s territorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 which suspended the Brown Act teleconferencing requirements so that legislative bodies can hold public meetings solely by teleconference, or otherwise electronically, without listing the teleconference locations and without any physical location, as long as the agenda that is posted 72 hours in advance indicates that the members of the legislative body will be participating by teleconference, provides the teleconference or webinar access information by which the public may participate electronically, and lists the procedure for individuals with disabilities to request reasonable accommodations; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21, which sunsets the Brown Act provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 on September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2021, Governor Newsom signed urgency ordinance AB 361 which allows a local agency to use teleconferencing for public meetings without posting the teleconferencing locations on the agenda and without requiring the teleconference locations to be accessible to the public during a Governor-proclaimed state of emergency pursuant to California Government Code Section 8625 et seq, if the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of its legislative bodies to meet safely in person or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has made findings, beginning on March 17, 2020 and continuing every 60 days thereafter, most recently by Resolution No. 1078-21 adopted on August 31, 2021, for the continued proclamation of local emergency based on substantial evidence that the public interest and necessity require the continuance of the proclamation of local emergency related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, beginning with the March 31, 2020 Council meeting, the City has conducted public meetings utilizing teleconferencing technology to provide for members of the public, staff, and public officials to participate without providing for in-person participation, and on August 10, 2021, the City Council provided the direction regarding the format of future public meetings, including continuing virtual-only meetings as long as this model is allowable; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2021, due to the delta variant spike in case numbers and hospitalizations, eight Bay Area Health Officers, including Santa Clara County, issued Health Orders requiring face coverings indoors in public places, regardless of vaccination status, beginning August 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a recent surge in COVID-19 cases has been reported in the Bay Area and across California as well as the country due to the highly contagious delta variant; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local health officials are considering the appropriateness of third booster shots for vaccinated individuals in light of waning immunity to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) requires that the City Council review the need and make findings for continuing the teleconferencing without complying with the agenda posting and public comment requirements at least once every thirty (30) days until Governor terminates the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the associated emergency conditions are on-going and there is a need to continue teleconferencing for public meetings without posting the teleconferencing locations on the agenda and without requiring the teleconference locations to be accessible to the public during the current Governor-proclaimed COVID-19 state of emergency and if approved, will be in effect for 30 days and will expire on October 28, 2021 unless staff returns to City Council on or before October 28, 2021 to request to continue the need for teleconferencing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council establishes the bylaws for Council-appointed Boards and Commissions through the adoption of City Council Policy 7.2.9 (Boards and Commissions), which includes provisions related to holding public meetings in compliance with the Brown Act; and

WHEREAS, Boards and Commissions do not have authority under City Council Policy 7.2.9 (Boards and Commissions) to establish their own rules for meeting locations, schedule, or use of teleconferencing, but rather these policies are established by the City Council for all Boards and Commissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT:

1. The City Council hereby finds that the state of emergency conditions related to COVID-19, as set forth in Resolution No. 1078-21 adopted on August 31, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference, are on-going.

2. The City Council finds that there is a need to continue teleconferencing for public meetings without posting the teleconferencing locations on the agenda and without requiring the teleconference locations to be accessible to the public during the current Governor-proclaimed COVID-19 state of emergency.

3. The City Council finds that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members of the City Council, Council Standing Committees, and City Boards and Commissions to meet safely in person.

4. City officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing in City facilities.

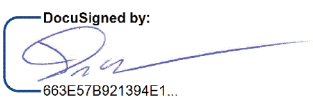
5. Members of the City Council, Council Standing Committees and City Boards and Commission are authorized to use teleconferencing, or other electronic means, to hold its public meetings without noticing the teleconferenced locations on the agenda, without making teleconferenced or physical locations accessible to the public, without posting agendas at teleconferenced locations, without requiring members of the legislative bodies to be physically present at the meeting, and without requiring a quorum of the members of the legislative body to participate from locations with the City's jurisdiction, as long as the agenda that is posted at least 72 hours in advance indicates that members of the legislative body may be participating electronically, provides the teleconference or webinar access information by which the public may participate electronically, and lists the procedure for individuals with disabilities to request reasonable accommodations, in compliance with AB 361, Government Code Section 54953(e).

6. The City Clerk is hereby directed to report to the City Council within thirty (30) days on the need to further continue teleconferencing for public meetings without posting the teleconferencing locations on the agenda and without requiring the teleconference locations to be accessible to the public during the current Governor-proclaimed COVID-19 state of emergency.

Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on October 26, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: KLEIN, HENDRICKS, LARSSON, MELTON, FONG, CISNEROS, DIN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
RECUSAL: NONE

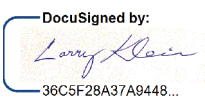
ATTEST:

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DAVID CARNAHAN
City Clerk

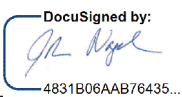
(SEAL)

APPROVED:

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LARRY KLEIN
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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JOHN A. NAGEL
City Attorney