

Resolution by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
Temporary Continuation of Virtual Neighborhood Council Meetings

June 2021

WHEREAS, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 (March 2020) and N-08-21 (June 2021), which allowed legislative bodies to hold virtual meetings by suspending portions of the Brown Act;

WHEREAS, in order to comply with emergency orders and pandemic restrictions issued by the State, County, and City, neighborhood councils have exclusively held virtual meetings pursuant to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (Department) EmpowerLA Virtual Governance Plan;

WHEREAS, during these unprecedented times, virtual meetings have allowed neighborhood councils to continue to fulfill their City Charter role to promote more citizen participation in government and to make government more responsive to local needs and have increased the Department's ability to allocate resources and assist the neighborhood councils;

WHEREAS, neighborhood councils have submitted community impact statements and public comment to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) expressing a desire to continue virtual neighborhood council meetings due to increased attendance by the public, more civic engagement, and other benefits of virtual meetings;

WHEREAS, the State, County, and City amended or rescinded emergency orders and pandemic restrictions on June 15, 2021 and the State legislature is currently considering various bills that might permit virtual meetings even after restrictions are lifted;

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department need additional time to analyze "hybrid" in-person and virtual meetings and the allocation of resources to support the return of in-person meetings;

WHEREAS, the Department will engage neighborhood council leaders to identify possible policies to implement a more permanent system of virtual governance, hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, and the ability for boards and the public to participate virtually;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS:

POLICY NUMBER 2021-1

As long as legally permissible under the Brown Act or other applicable laws, all neighborhood councils shall only hold virtual meetings pursuant to the Department's EmpowerLA Virtual Governance Plan. This policy shall become effective upon its adoption and expire on December 31, 2021.

The Department, at its discretion, may use its authority under existing BONC Policies and Administrative Code to enforce this policy.

ADOPTED this 21st Day of June, 2021

MOVED BY: Leonard Shaffer

Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

SECONDED BY: Debbie Wehbe

Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

WITNESSED BY: Erricka Peden

Staff, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

VOTES

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0