



Clerk of the Council Office
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Item # 28

City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
January 18, 2022

TOPIC: Assembly Bill 361

AGENDA TITLE:

Consider Approving the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings of City Council and all Boards, Committees, and Commissions Pursuant to the Provisions of Assembly Bill 361

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt resolution to consider continuing the use of teleconferencing for the meetings of City Council and all boards, committees, and Commissions pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 for the next 30 days.

DISCUSSION

On March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Brown Act in order to allow legislative bodies to conduct their meetings completely telephonically or by other electronic means. City Council meetings have been conducted by Zoom with councilmembers and staff all joining from remote locations when necessary.

The suspension of certain provisions of the Brown Act was further extended by Governor Newsom on June 11, 2021 by the issuance of Executive Order N-08-21 which continued to allow completely virtual City Council (and other legislative body) meetings. This order stayed in effect until September 30, 2021.

In response, AB 361 was signed into effect by Governor Newsom on September 16, 2021. It amends the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies to meet virtually, provided there is a state of emergency, and either (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or (2) the legislative body determines by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

The City of Santa Ana's current practices with respect to live public comment via Zoom already satisfy all of the new requirements in AB 361. Additionally, the individual

legislative bodies can make their own findings for the AB 361 telecommuting resolution for future meetings. Determinations to continue to utilize remote meetings as allowed by AB 361 must be re-visited by the legislative body every 30 days with the support of new findings. Staff recommends this extension period to act as a helpful transitional stage for boards, committees, and commissions who still currently meet virtually.

Most recently on December 21, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-088, making the required findings under AB 361 in order to allow the City to continue to offer teleconference accessibility for public meetings after September 30, 2021, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The attached resolution (Exhibit 1) declares additional findings to allow for the continued use of teleconferencing for City Council, board, commission, and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Resolution

Submitted By: Daisy Gomez, Clerk of the Council

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager