

CATEGORY: Policy

COMMITTEE: Director's – Laferriere-Holloway

TITLE: CF 23-0002-S16 Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System / Remote Meetings / Ralph M. Brown Act Amendment

PURPOSE: To provide MVCC support to the LA City Council seeking the State Legislature to amend the Brown Act to permit City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system to choose to operate remote meetings indefinitely

BACKGROUND:

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles (City) with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that virtual meetings have allowed much easier access to the neighborhood council process for Angelenos, with far more members of the public participating in each meeting from the convenience of their own home--creating greater equity in the process and fostering the health of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, AB-2449 last year made amendments but failed to specifically address the needs of the Neighborhood Council system; and

WHEREAS, the 99 Neighborhood Councils in Los Angeles all have unique communities, needs, technology abilities, access to public meeting spaces; and

WHEREAS, in person meetings may jeopardize the health and safety of vulnerable Angelenos, due to ongoing risk from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is not realistic to expect the Neighborhood Council system to be able to carry out "hybrid" meetings effectively, both due to budget and technology limitations; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Councils wish to have the option to meet virtually in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the ability for Neighborhood Councils to meet virtually will end with state and local emergency orders expiring; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program, Sponsorship or Support for legislation to amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to permit the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system to choose to operate remote meetings indefinitely.

THE MOTION: The MVCC is FOR the LA City Council, in concurrence with the Mayor of LA, including in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program sponsorship or support legislation to amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to permit the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system to choose to operate remote meetings indefinitely.

DIRECTED TO: City Council and Committees

ACTION/VOTE COUNT: