



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: August 11, 2021 Meeting date: August 23, 2021

Subject: Consideration of the Resumption of In-Person Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Receive an update on the current State and County public health regulations; and 2) Consider options for the resumption of in-person public meetings, and give direction to staff as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this recommended action. Depending on what direction Council provides on the resumption of in-person meetings, additional funding may be necessary to fund staff overtime costs needed to facilitate public meetings in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 that was not previously included in the Adopted Budget.

WORK PLAN: This item was included as item 1a in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

DISCUSSION: At its Regular meeting on June 28, 2021, the Council received an update on the current State and County public health regulations and directed staff to place an item on the consideration of the resumption of in-person meetings on each Regular meeting agenda until in-person meetings resume. The following is new information received since the last update provided to Council on July 12, 2021:

- July 18 – The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), in response to a seven-times increase in new cases since the June 15 reopening, announced that facemasks are required while indoors in public settings and businesses in the County, regardless of vaccination status.
- July 23 – LADPH issued an updated Health Officer Order confirming the new requirement for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status to wear face coverings in any indoor public settings or businesses
- July 26 – State Public Health Officer Order issued requiring all State employees and workers in certain health care, long-term care and high-risk congregate settings to

provide proof of full vaccination or be tested regularly (at least once or twice weekly, depending on setting).

- July 28 – LADPH issued a revised Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools, including an indoor masking requirement for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, with twice weekly testing for any exempt employees.
- July 30 – LADPH issued a revised Health Officer Order, effective August 1, incorporating by reference the State Public Health Officer Order of July 26
- August 6 – City confirmed that two members of City staff had tested positive for COVID-19. These staff members work in different departments and did not interact.

The daily COVID-19 update issued by LADPH on August 9, 2021 reflected the serious trend in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations since the June 5 statewide reopening:

“In the past two weeks, Los Angeles County has seen a near-doubling in the number of people hospitalized each day for COVID-19 illness. There are 1,437 people with COVID-19 currently hospitalized; on Monday, July 26 there were 745 people hospitalized with COVID-19. The majority of the increase has been among unvaccinated people, while hospitalizations remain very low among vaccinated people. Between May 1 and July 17, 3,158 people were hospitalized in Los Angeles County; 92% of those hospitalized were not fully vaccinated.”

The Governor’s Executive Order N-08-21, issued June 11, 2021, remains in effect with an expiration date of October 1, 2021 for when public agencies must transition back to public meetings held in person to be in full compliance with the Brown Act. It is unknown at this time if the order will be extended beyond October 1. However, it is important to consider noticing requirements for public hearings. The legal requirement is for public notices to be published in the local newspaper no less than 21 days prior to the date of the hearing and must include the location of the public hearing. Notices for public hearings scheduled for the October 4, 2021 Planning Commission agenda will be published after this Council meeting and before the Council’s next Regular meeting in September so, unless the Executive Order is extended prior to the 21-day noticing date, those notices will indicate that the hearings will be held in person at City Hall. Should the status of the Executive Order change, cancellation and re-noticing will be required if those public hearings will be conducted in a virtual setting.

As previously mentioned, members of the City Council, staff and the community have expressed that they would prefer not to attend in-person meetings if wearing face coverings are required. Staff will continue to monitor information issued by the State and County and provide regular updates to Council.

ATTACHMENTS: None.