



Council Agenda Report

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

Prepared by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: August 31, 2021 Meeting date: September 13, 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 Governor's Executive Order N-08-21, issued June 11, 2021, remains in effect with an expiration date of September 30, 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.

Staff has been advised by California Strategies that AB 361 is likely to be approved by the State Legislator. AB 361 would allow local agencies to use teleconferencing for public meetings without complying with Brown Act restrictions during certain emergencies. If approved, this bill would go into effect immediately after the Governor signs it and the bill's provisions would sunset on January 1, 2024. Staff will provide an update on AB 361 at the September 13, 2021 Regular meeting.

If the City transitions to in-person meetings, the Council should determine what protocols, if any, will be established for participation and public entry to those meetings. Some potential requirements include but are not limited to wearing of face coverings by all in attendance, providing proof of vaccination or proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test result, and/or the allowance of continued virtual participation (i.e., hybrid meetings).

Some public agencies have already begun holding in-person meetings with limitations set for public entry. For example, both the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meetings are being held with only Board members and executive staff attending in-person. Members of the public and all other staff continue to participate virtually.

Staff will ensure that any such protocols will be clearly indicated on posted agendas, at the entrances to City Hall and the Council Chambers, and in any online and social media promotion of those meetings, as necessary.

ATTACHMENTS: None.