

DATE: July 18, 2022

TO: Performing Arts Committee

FROM: Noelle Magner, Administrative Analyst/Business Manager

SUBJECT: **AB 361 Resolution to Continue Remote Public Meetings During State of Emergency**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution of the Performing Arts Committee of the City of Mountain View Authorizing Virtual Meetings Pursuant to AB 361 and Making Required Findings, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the report).

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Despite the relatively high rate of vaccination in Santa Clara County, the risk of community spread of COVID-19 remains persistent. At the beginning of the year, fueled by the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the rate of infection reached pandemic highs. The infection rate has since declined in most parts of the State, including Santa Clara County. However, the Governor's declared State of Emergency remains in effect, as do public health orders and recommendations to promote social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

These public health measures include the County Public Health Officer's recommendation issued in September 2021 that public bodies meet remotely to the extent possible, which remains in effect. The Public Health Officer based the recommendation on: "the continued threat of COVID-19 to the community, the unique characteristics of public governmental meetings (such as the increased mixing associated with bringing together people from across the community, the need to enable those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated to be able to safely continue to fully participate in public governmental meetings, and the challenges with fully ascertaining and ensuring compliance with vaccination and other safety recommendations at such meetings), and the continued increased safety protection that social distancing provides as one means by which to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission." As recognized by the County Public Health Department, COVID-19 continues to pose imminent risks to the health and safety of meeting attendees.

Adoption of the proposed resolution would allow the Performing Arts Committee to continue to meet remotely, without adhering to the regular teleconference rules, for 30 days. If the

Performing Arts Committee does not adopt the proposed resolution, it will no longer be exempt from the physical public access, quorum, and public comment opportunity rules applied to teleconference meetings.

ALTERNATIVES

Decline to adopt the Resolution, and resume in-person meetings in compliance with all Brown Act teleconference requirements.

NM/4/CSD

227-07-18-22M

Attachment: 1. Resolution