

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
RESOLUTION NO.
SERIES 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361 TO CONTINUE
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
AND CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES
DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency, as defined under the California Emergency Services Act, due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, beginning in March 2020, the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 suspended Brown Act requirements related to teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic provided that notice, accessibility, and other requirements were met, and the public was allowed to observe and address the legislative body at the meeting; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order N-08-21 extended the previous order until September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the City's boards, commissions, and committees have conducted their meetings virtually, as authorized by the Executive Order, since March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed into law AB 361, an urgency measure effective upon adoption, that provides flexibility to government bodies, allowing them to meet virtually without conforming to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules during a declared state of emergency if: (i) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; (ii) the legislative body is meeting to determine whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person presents imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or (iii) the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, although applicable social distancing requirements are currently no longer in effect, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing in combination with other safety

precautions when activities occur in shared indoor spaces to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, in the last few months, the Delta variant has surged in the United States and become the predominant COVID-19 variant, accounting for more than 99% of COVID-19 cases and higher hospitalization rates; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant is believed by medical experts to be twice as contagious as previous variants, and data has shown the variant has increased transmissibility even among some vaccinated people; and

WHEREAS, due to uncertainty and concerns about the Delta variant and current conditions, many workplaces that had announced a return to regular in-person operations have pushed back the full return date until later in the year or next year; and

WHEREAS, virtual meetings have not diminished the public's ability to observe and participate and have expanded opportunities to do so for some communities; and

WHEREAS, given the heightened risks of the predominant variant of COVID-19 in the community, holding meetings with all members of the legislative body, staff, and the public in attendance in person in a shared indoor meeting space would pose an unnecessary and immediate risk to the attendees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mountain View that:

1. The City Council adopts the recitals set forth above as findings of fact.
2. The City Council hereby determines that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person presents imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. In accordance with AB 361, based on the findings and determinations herein, meetings of the City Council and City boards and commissions will be held virtually, with Brown Act teleconferencing rules suspended.
4. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption and remain in effect for 30 days after the first Council meeting held in accordance with AB 361.

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