
Neighborhood Council Requirements During the COVID-19 Crisis

Terrence Gomes <terrencegomes@soronc.org>

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To: Rob Wilcox <rob.wilcox@lacity.org>, ana.guerrero@lacity.org, Nicholas Greif <nicholas.greif@lacity.org>

Cc: Glenn Bailey <glennbaileyncs@gmail.com>, David Uebersax <ueebmeister@yahoo.com>, Tony Wilkinson <slowtony@gmail.com>, Jack Humphreville <jackh@targetmediapartners.com>, Sidney Gold <sidneygold2000@hotmail.com>

Hope all is well.

In 1999 the City of Los Angeles Voters demanded a change and as part of that sweeping change the birth of the Neighborhood Council System was created. The purpose of the Neighborhood Council System is to be a conduit between City Hall and their Stakeholders and to direct city services. Since the COVID-19 crisis, the city has effectively silenced the voices of the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

As part of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, he made it clear that public meetings can be held via teleconferencing.

3. Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (March 12, 2020) is withdrawn and superseded by the following text:

Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law (including, but not limited to, the Bagley-Keene Act or the Brown Act), and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements set forth below, a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body or state body. All requirements in both the Bagley-Keene Act and the Brown Act expressly or impliedly requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the body, or of the public as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting are hereby waived. In particular, any otherwise-applicable requirements that

- (i) state and local bodies notice each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting;
- (ii) each teleconference location be accessible to the public;
- (iii) members of the public may address the body at each teleconference conference location;
- (iv) state and local bodies post agendas at all teleconference locations;
- (v) at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting; and
- (vi) during teleconference meetings, a least a quorum of the members of the local body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local body exercises jurisdiction are hereby suspended.

As President of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) and a Boardmember of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council and conferring with Presidents and Boardmembers of Neighborhood Councils city-wide, we are requiring the following:

1. That the Mayor's Office, the City Council, the City Attorney's Office, and the Department of

Neighborhood Empowerment work together to provide a method of teleconferencing that is compliant with Executive Order N-25-20 so that Neighborhood Councils can hold public meetings to conduct business of the City of Los Angeles as provided by the Charter. Public participation at any time cannot be infringed.

2. That the City Attorney's Office create and provide language to the Neighborhood Councils for their agendas to comply with the Brown Act and Executive Order N 25-20 that Neighborhood Councils can use during this crisis for teleconferencing.
3. That the City Council creates a Council File and the City Attorney's Office creates language to roll over the TOTAL, unused portion of FY 2019-2020 Neighborhood Council funds to be available in FY 2020-2021 because of this crisis.
4. That the City Council and the City Attorney's Office place a moratorium on all Los Angeles City Planning approvals of Discretionary and Non-discretionary projects until a system of teleconferencing is in place or the crisis has subsided and Neighborhood Councils are conducting regular meetings. It is the responsibility of the Neighborhood Councils to provide a voice for the Stakeholders and to provide a proper venue for developers to present their projects to the public for scrutiny.

At this time, we are requiring an answer by Tuesday, March 24, 2020 by COB. This will allow Neighborhood Councils to plan for meetings to begin April 1, 2020. I cannot stress how important it is to the residents of the City of Los Angeles to have a venue to have public participation and to have a return to some normalcy in their lives during this crisis.

Let me know.

Making it better together!

Terrence Gomes, President

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC)

Los Angeles, California

310-387-1374

terrencegomes@loronc.org

LANCC@empowerla.org

Visit www.lancc.org

The road to success is always under construction. -unknown