

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, prior to the outset of the COVID pandemic, the Ralph M. Brown Act included restrictions on the use of teleconferencing or virtual meetings that made this tool relatively ineffective at expanding opportunities for participation in public meetings; in particular, the Brown Act required that all teleconferencing locations be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, during and after the COVID emergency, the State expanded the use of teleconferencing for Brown Act meetings by executive order and legislation, including AB 361 and AB 2449; and

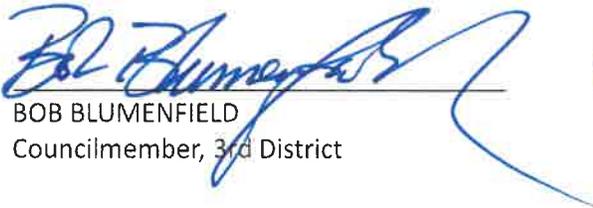
WHEREAS, although AB 361 and AB 2449 expand the use of teleconferencing, they do not fully take into the account the extent to which virtual meetings make it easier for people to participate in local government as members of the public, and because the Brown Act also applies to advisory bodies created by a local legislative body, the extent to which strict limits on virtual meetings reduce the pool of people who are able to serve on these bodies; and

WHEREAS, these restrictions on virtual meetings especially burden people with family care obligations, less-flexible work schedules, physical limitations and/or who do not have access to a car, which is a particular problem in jurisdictions like the City of Los Angeles whose residents are spread across 469 square miles; and

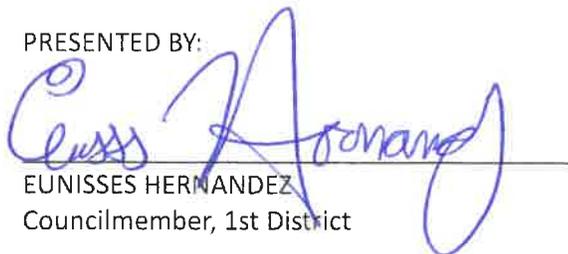
WHEREAS, AB 817 (Pacheco) would authorize the use of teleconferencing for subsidiary, purely advisory bodies upon a finding by the legislative body that teleconference meetings would enhance public access and promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of subsidiary body members; and would require that teleconference meetings be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of members of the public, including allowing the public to hear, observe and address the subsidiary body;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2024-2025 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 817 (Pacheco) that would amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to authorize the Los Angeles City Council and other legal legislative bodies to permit subsidiary, purely advisory bodies to meet by teleconference, subject to provisions for public participation.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

PK

FEB 13 2024