

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS**

**Findings Pursuant to AB361 [Government Code Section 54953(e)]**

**October 2021**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency, which is still in effect, in the State of California pursuant to Government Code Section 8625 due to the threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic;

WHEREAS, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Orders N25-20 and N-29-20 (March 2020) and N-08-21 (June 2021), which allowed legislative bodies to hold virtual meetings by suspending portions of the Brown Act;

WHEREAS, in addition to the Governor's proclamation of a State of Emergency, the County of Los Angeles and the City have passed public safety orders that include social distancing measures;

WHEREAS, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department), which is charged with facilitating meetings of the neighborhood councils, promoting safe meeting environments in accordance with City regulations such as local health and safety mandates, and encouraging participation by stakeholders across the neighborhood council system, recommends that neighborhood councils continue to meet virtually.

WHEREAS, Section 902 (b) of the Los Angeles City Charter provides that the Commission shall be responsible for policy setting, policy oversight and the promulgation of rules and regulations related to the Neighborhood Council System and the approval of contracts and leases for neighborhood councils, such as for the locations of neighborhood council meetings; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2021, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) adopted policy number 2021-1 requiring all that states that as long as legally permissible, all neighborhood councils shall only hold virtual meetings pursuant to the Department's EmpowerLA Virtual Governance Plan;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361, which added subsection (e) to Government Code Section 54953 of the Brown Act, and makes provision for remote teleconferencing meetings without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS MAKES THE FOLLOWING FINDING:**

In accordance with AB361 [Government Code Section 54953(e)(3)], the Commission, which is responsible for setting the policy and oversight of the Neighborhood Council System, has

reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and finds that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Commission members and neighborhood council board and committee members to meet safely in person and state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Pursuant to Commission Policy Number 2021-1, all neighborhood councils shall continue to hold only virtual meetings pursuant to the Department's EmpowerLA Virtual Governance Plan.

ADOPTED this 18th day of October 2021.

MOVED BY:

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Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

SECONDED BY:

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Member, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

WITNESSED BY:

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Staff, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

VOTES:

Ayes:

Nays: