

To: LGBTQ Commission
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Subject: Resolution to make findings allowing continued remote meetings under Brown Act

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and set a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act. The original Executive Order provided that all provisions of the Brown Act that required the physical presence of members or other personnel as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting were waived for public health reasons. If these waivers fully sunsetted on October 1, 2021, legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act would have to contend with a sudden return to full compliance with in-person meeting requirements as they existed prior to March 2020, including the requirement for full physical public access to all teleconference locations from which board members were participating.

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that formalizes and modifies the teleconference procedures implemented by California public agencies in response to the Governor's Executive Orders addressing Brown Act compliance during shelter-in-place periods. AB 361 allows a local agency to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders when certain circumstances occur or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the local agency.

AB 361 also requires that, if the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, the agency must make findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. The findings are to the effect that the need for teleconferencing persists due to the nature of the ongoing public health emergency and the social distancing recommendations of local public health officials. Effectively, this means that local agencies must agendaize a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and to vote to continue relying upon the law's provision for teleconference procedures in lieu of in-person meetings.

AB 361 provides that Brown Act legislative bodies must return to in-person meetings on October 1, 2021, unless they choose to continue with fully teleconferenced meetings because a specific declaration of a state or local health emergency is appropriately made. AB 361 allows local governments to continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a gubernatorially-proclaimed public emergency in combination with (1) local health official recommendations for social distancing or (2) adopted findings that meeting in person would present risks to health. AB 361 is effective immediately as urgency legislation and will sunset on January 1, 2024.

Further, the Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined

DISCUSSION:

Because local rates of transmission of COVID-19 are still in the “substantial” tier as measured by the Centers for Disease Control, we recommend that the LGBTQ Commission avail itself of the provisions of AB 361 allowing continuation of online meetings by adopting findings to the effect that conducting in-person meetings would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees. A resolution to that effect, and directing staff to return each 30 days with the opportunity to renew such findings, is attached hereto.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION FINDING THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, MEETING IN PERSON FOR MEETINGS OF THE LGBTQ COMMISSION WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625, that a state of emergency exists with regard to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Governor clarified that the “reopening” of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder, and as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to California Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the “Brown Act”), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 that provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act provided the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or

safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and,

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and,

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo currently has a Community Transmission metric of “substantial” which is the second most serious of the tiers; and,

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ Commission has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in its meetings; and,

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the LGBTQ Commission deems it necessary to find that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing;

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The LGBTQ Commission finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. Staff is directed to return no later than thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution with an item for the LGBTQ Commission to consider making the findings required by AB 361 in order to continue meeting under its provisions.
4. Staff is directed to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO LGBTQ COMMISSION

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Commission

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

<p>1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement, Group Agreements</p>		<p><u>Our Group Agreements</u> include Share the air; step up, step back; Listen for understanding; Lift as you climb; Be present & engaged; Let the facilitator guide the process; Technology on silent.</p> <p>Adjusting the Land Acknowledgement to honor that the land is of Indigenous tribes.</p>
<p>2. Roll Call</p>		<p>Present: Bismay Mishra, Krystle Cansino, Rebecca Carabez, Dana Johnson, Christopher Sturken, Craig Wiesner, Rudy Espinoza-Murray, Lalo Gonzalez</p> <p><u>Non-Commissioners:</u> Tanya Beat, Linda Wolin, Frankie Sapp</p> <p><u>Members of the Public:</u> Lauren Back</p>
<p>3. Adopt a resolution...</p>		<p>finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.</p> <p>Rudy Espinoza Murray motions. Dana Johnson seconds the motion. Approved.</p>
<p>4. Public Comment</p>		<p>Introduction of Lauren Back</p>
<p>5. Action to Set Agenda & Approve Consent Agenda Items</p>	<p><i>Action</i></p>	<p>Rebecca Carabez motions. Rudy Espinoza Murray seconds the motion. Approved.</p>
<p>CONSENT AGENDA</p>		
<p>6. Approval of June Meeting Minutes</p>		
<p>REGULAR AGENDA</p>		
<p>7. Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pride Center –Frankie Sapp ○ Pride Initiative – Dana Johnson ○ CoastPride – Lalo Gonzalez ○ Director’s Report – Tanya Beat 		<p>Pride Center: update by Frankie Sapp</p> <p>Resource Roadmaps – downloadable & order to print</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essentials (Food, shelter, wellness) - Health & wellness - Legal Advocacy - Navigating Work - Housing Tips <p>New Pride Center Merch: tinyurl.com/smcpcpridemerch</p> <p>Accepting ongoing donations (ie \$5 per month)</p>

LGBTQ Human Resources workshop on inclusion (Jennifer Brust).
Wed, August 17, 5:30-7:30pm virtual.

Pride Initiative: update by Dana Johnson

- June 11 was Pride Celebration

<https://smcpridecelebration.com>

- Estimated attendance was 2500 (highest ever); feedback: fun, amazing, diverse, fantastic program.

- Craig Wiesner's experience as a vendor (Reach & Teach): parents & kids attended were awesome and that inclusive energy was so strong. As a vendor, he was approached by an angry man, yelling at Craig on hate toward LGBTQ people. Craig stood up to him and he left. No police protection which was concerning. Recommends police protection all day.

- The planning cmte respected feedback from community to not have police there.

- Suggestion: have members of community volunteer to be a Safety Group for security and be there for protection.

- Next Pride Initiative August 10, 4:30-6:00pm, virtual.

CoastPride: updated by Lalo Gonzalez

- Fundraiser on July 4, brought visibility

- Tues & Thurs, 2-6pm; Sat from 12-4pm; and middle & high school groups that meet – see flyer for specific days & times.

- Please sign up to volunteer and/or receive the CoastPride e-newsletter. Go to bottom of webpage to sign up:

<https://coastpride.org/>

- More vandalism at elementary school & a high school. Pacifica is responding with more trainings, increase police presence, and a possible community march.

- Accommodate accessibility for people who are not able to march - at end point, have chairs reserved for people in need.

- 1 staff person and the Board does the rest. Need help to fund CoastPride and seek out working board members.

Director's Report: updated by Tanya Beat

MonkeyPox Resources: websites & prevention information (see all meeting materials with detailed info).

MonkeyPox Vaccine: If you need tested, go to your provider.

People w/o insurance can go to the SMC Medical Center for testing. If you need the vaccine, go to SF vaccine centers (website listings).

Pride Center: Using Frankie's experience from HIV work, there are populations that are more at risk to Monkeypox. It's related to where the resources are prioritized which is relevant to this area.

- There is a difference between risks and behaviors and by implying that the behaviors are ones that we ALL participate in creates fear and then scarcity of vaccines.

		<p>Explanation based on HIV: the likelihood of risk of becoming HIV positive is higher in the gay men community than it is for straight people. So while the behaviors are the same, with the different community demographics, the risks are NOT the same because the concentration of that specific population is at a higher level.</p> <p>- Looking at MonkeyPox, the extremely limited resources need to be prioritized in those communities. The way you address stigma is by presenting facts and not judging people on the behavior. And strongly encouraging men who have sex with men to get tested & get the vaccine. We are all NOT at risk.</p> <p>Sub-Committees: Pausing these meetings until new commissioners join in. Then start them up again in 2023. Commissioners who agree to pause: Dana, Rebecca, Bismay Krystal would want the work to continue – how do we do that without having subcommittee meetings? Tanya will meet with Chris and Lalo about what that process would look like.</p>
<p>8. Update – on Board of Supervisor LGBTQ+ Advocacy Agenda</p>	<p><i>Update</i></p>	<p>Linda Wolin worked with Chief Legislation Office on SB107 status. Board of Supervisors signed off on letter of support and they are officially a proponent of the legislation. Please refer to the process doc included in meeting materials. The Legislative Director will include updates to the BOS on SB107 as an ongoing process.</p> <p>Case of 303 Creative LLC vs Atlanta – Supreme Court</p> <p>County Attorney’s office joined Amicus Brief that supports the state of Colorado law prohibiting discrimination of public accommodation. The case that involves a challenge to Colorado public accommodation law protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination (the bakery court case from a few years ago).</p> <p>Bismay comment/question: Sharing how Gilead is being proactive on legal briefs and participating to support the LGBTQ community. Is the BOS participating in advocacy throughout the state and nationally?</p> <p>Response: the BOS’ advocacy is relevant to our own local representatives. Example: Today the BOS went on record to endorse prop one which is the constitutional amendment regarding reproductive care and the right to an abortion in the California state Constitution. That endorsement directly supports SMC residents.</p> <p>The way to support legislation beyond the County is to do what we did with SB107 (following the Legislation Process).</p>
<p>9. Wellness Break</p>		
<p>10. Break outs</p>		<p>Postpone to the September meeting</p>
<p>11. LGBTQ Commission Schedule</p>	<p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<p>Chris Sturken: appointed to RWC Planning Commission & they meet on the same day & time as the LGBTQ Commission. Chris</p>

		<p>wants to remain on both groups. One option is to change the day & time of the LGBTQ Commission.</p> <p>Tanya: the LGBTQ Commission has also approved our 2022 meeting calendar (we do every January). Recommend to allow Chris an opportunity to experience both Commissions. Take action at the Dec meeting for 2023. It also allows new commissioners to come on and partake in the discussion.</p> <p>Commissioners with flexible schedules: Craig, Rebecca, Dana</p>
12. Moment of Expression	<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Pacifica hate incidents is something we wanted to provide space for. How are you feeling in response to these incidents?</p> <p>Lalo: He is continuing to wonder, “What can we do to help youth feel supported and safe?”</p> <p>Bismay: the response coming from grassroots is showing the community unity.</p> <p>Tanya: strategic partnership with other commissions. Example: a community art project; theme of inclusion & art.</p> <p>Craig: shared the story of “not in our town.” Also shared story about a north SMC school board raising the Pride flag. It’s a “no brainer” to support inclusion and visibility.</p> <p>Rebecca: we need to serve the community, especially those who may have caused these incidents.</p>
13. Commissioner Announcements	<i>Updates</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Josh Becker recognizing Reach & Teach as his Small Business of the Year Awardee! Ceremony in Sacramento on August 17th. Congratulations to Craig! • Vacancies: three open positions. Rev Terri & Steve have full terms to fill and Giuliana’s is a partial term. Steve was not reappointed. More info: https://www.smcgov.org/bnc/vacancies • Chris Sturken is running for City Council in Redwood City. Congratulations to Chris! • New South San Francisco Commission: Equity & Public Safety Commission (Krystle is the Chair of that commission) and they want to mandate SOGI training.
14. Adjournment		



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO LGBTQ COMMISSION

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Commission

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

<p>1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement, Group Agreements</p>		<p><u>Our Group Agreements</u> include Share the air; step up, step back; Listen for understanding; Lift as you climb; Be present & engaged; Let the facilitator guide the process; Technology on silent.</p> <p>Adjusting the Land Acknowledgement to honor that the land is of Indigenous tribes.</p>
<p>2. Roll Call</p>		<p>Present: Krystle Cansino, Rebecca Carabez, Dana Johnson, Lalo Gonzalez, Bismay Mishra, Craig Wiesner Absent: Rudy Espinoza-Murray, Christopher Sturken <u>Non-Commissioners:</u> Tanya Beat, Linda Wolin, Frankie Sapp <u>Members of the Public:</u> Lauren Heminez, Patrick Orme</p>
<p>3. Adopt a resolution...</p>		<p>finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.</p>
<p>4. Public Comment</p>		<p>Various introductions from Members of the Public.</p>
<p>5. Action to Set Agenda & Approve Consent Agenda Items</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Rebecca Carabez motions. Craig Wiesner seconds the motion. Approved.</p>
<p>CONSENT AGENDA</p>		
<p>6. Approval of September Meeting Minutes</p>		
<p>REGULAR AGENDA</p>		
<p>7. Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pride Center –Frankie Sapp ○ Director’s Report – Tanya Beat ○ Youth Commission – Chloe Chan ○ Verbal Updates? 		<p>Pride Center: update by Frankie Sapp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See included report - Trans Talks - Center repairs update. Will send a invitation for volunteers to help pack materials and move them later in October. - Kamayan Event, Oct 19; Krystle Cansino is a panelist <p>Director’s Report: updated by Tanya Beat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgender Day of Remembrance is now TransACTION Day of Change; audience are mainly allies. Resource Fair, Action Wall, Reading of the Names, Candlelight Vigil - Nov Agenda will include Discussion on changing our meeting day - Overview of Equity in the County: Equity Presentation at Oct 4 BOS mtg; Affinity Groups

		<p>-Youth Commission report (see materials)</p> <p>Verbal Reports?</p> <p>- CoastPride: HMB Pride event may happen</p> <p>- Pride Initiative meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 4:00-5:30pm</p>
8. Wellness break		
9. How do we know?	<i>Break outs</i>	<p>Answer and discuss two questions: How do we know what is going on in the community? What are your ways to stay engaged? Where are the opportunities to know about community needs?</p> <p>You can write your answers on whiteboard.</p> <p>Social, media, libraries, attending more events, talking with people who are in the LGBTQ community.</p>
10. Visibility Sticker for Inclusive LGBTQ+ Spaces	<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Craig Wiesner leading this discussion.</p> <p>Goal: create a sticker and hand out to people with the message of inclusion and being welcoming.</p> <p>Ideas include “true self,” “everyone is welcome,” “being proud all year,” “from ally to advocate,” “beyond,” use the transgender colors or progress pride flag colors/symbol. Include QR code in the corner that goes to Commission website.</p>
11. Commissioner Announcements	<i>Updates</i>	
12. Moment of Action		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge Hurricane Ian and its impact on Puerto Rico; Karina Castro death in San Carlos • Please support CORA; new program (TDAH) that focuses on family support and prevention • Thank you to the Pride Center (Frankie) for supporting communication on stigma of MPox
13. Adjournment		



[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

November 2022 Updates

Invitation to a Special Community Organized Event:

- **TransACTION Day of Change- Friday November 18th from 3:00-5:30pm at Courthouse Square, Redwood City**
 - In honor of ***Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)**, we invite you to **TransACTION Day of Change** where we are providing the community the opportunity to commit to ending TDOR (**#endTDOR**). TransACTION Day of Change will feature a selection of resource booths with community-based organizations, local businesses, and more. There will be an Allegiance Wall to pledge support and collect information on how to advocate for Trans/Gender Diverse community members. At sunset, we will honor those taken with the traditional “Reading of the Names” and a candlelight vigil.
 - Creating change is difficult; especially when we mourn those who have lost their lives simply for being themselves. We want to honor those who have died and create ways for our community to learn and act to #endTDOR. This event is free and open for all community members. Please join us. You’re welcome here. For more information, visit: <https://www.smcgov.org/lgbtq/event/transaction-day-change>

Pride Center Special Events!

- **Trans Talks: Misinformation and Trans Health**
 - Thursday, 11/10 from 6:30-7:30 PM PST on Zoom
 - For more information, please click this link- <https://www.facebook.com/events/504291044707155>
 - Registration is required: tinyurl.com/transtalk11-10
- **Holiday Hike- San Bruno Mountain History Tour on Saturday December 10th**
 - The weather outside might be frightful, but the mountain views are sure delightful! **On Saturday December 10th (9:30am arrival time with a 10am hiking start)**, continue the holiday season with an outdoor hike and guided history tour of the San Bruno mountains with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, San Mateo County Pride Center, and Peninsula Family Service. Lunches will be provided! Register to receive more information leading up to our tour at [registration form \(https://tinyurl.com/HolidayHike2022\)](https://tinyurl.com/HolidayHike2022). For any questions or concerns regarding the event, please contact Adriana Arriaga at adriana@supportparks.org and Azisa Todd at azisa.todd@sanmateopride.org.

- **Stay tuned for more information to come!**
 - **Accessibility Information:** The history tour will be on the Saddle Loop trail and is approximately 1.5-2 miles on non-paved paths with 3 moderate inclines. There is only 1 main outdoor seating area at the base of the trail and approximately 4 (four) small benches along the trail. There is only 1 (one) main bathroom across from the parking lot and **no gender-neutral restrooms**. The non-paved trail **does not have shaded areas**, thus participants are encouraged to bring hats, sunscreen, and/or umbrellas to avoid direct sunlight. More information about climate and weather will be provided as we get closer to the tour date.
- **Peer Support Groups- October Schedule and Updates**
 - LGBTQ Parent Group- November 1st from 7:30-8:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-parentsgroup>
 - LGBTQ Book Club (18+) - November 2nd from 4:30-6pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-bookclub>
 - Polyamory Peer Power (18+)- November 2nd from 7-8:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-polyampower>
 - Gay Men's Group (18+)- November 15th from 6-7pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCPC-gaymensgroup>
 - Queer Women's Social Group (18+)- November 18th from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-queerwomensgroup>
 - Peer Group Updates
 - In preparation for the holiday season, the Gay Men's group will be meeting Tuesday November 15th and Tuesday December 13th
- **The Gift that Keeps on Giving!**

Are you able to become a regular financial supporter of the Pride community services? Your donation could provide gender affirming garments, help sponsor therapeutic services, cover legal name change fees, and otherwise help overcome financial barriers for LGBTQ+ community members in need. To start your tax-deductible monthly donation to the Pride Center, click [this link](#). For questions or more information, contact Frankie Sapp (he/him) at francisco.sapp@sanmateopride.org.





San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative Report

- *Dana Johnson (they/ them/ theirs)- PRIDE Initiative co-chair*
- **LGBTQ Commission Meeting-** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 @6:30pm

- ❖ **About the PRIDE Initiative:** The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in equality and parity for LGBTQ+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and respectful of LGBTQ+ issues.

- ❖ Join us at the next Pride Initiative meeting (via virtual) on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022** from 4:30-6pm.
 1. PRIDE Initiative and local LGBTQI+ program updates
 2. Next PRIDE Initiative meeting (on November 9th) we will start working on SMC Pride Celebration 2023 THEME
 3. To join the Virtual Pride Initiative Meeting please see the Zoom Conference Information below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510844451>

Meeting ID: 815 1084 4451

Passcode: PRIDEBHRS **(PLEASE NOTE: Password is now required to join)**

To: LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Date: November 1, 2022
Subject: Status of recent events/projects

Welcome New Commissioners:

- Marilyn Hollinger (she/her)
- Jana Rickerson (she/her)
- Aaron Adriano (they/them)

TransACTION Day of Change

- Honoring those who have died and provide opportunity to create change and build a more inclusive County for transgender and gender diverse individuals.
 - Three Activities:
 1. November 2, 9:30am. Flag-raising, County Center in Redwood City
 2. IN-PERSON Resource Tables, Action Wall, Reading of the Names, Candlelight Vigil at Redwood City Courthouse Square on **Friday, November 18 from 3:00-7:00pm.**
 3. Potentially may have a vaccine clinic there as well; in process.
- VIRTUAL Panel on Gender Affirming Services featuring individuals with lived experience and service advocates. Time and Date TBD.
- Next Planning Meeting - Tuesday, Nov 8, 5-6pm <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/9725932550>
- Need volunteers to help with set-up and pack-up

Winter Retreat

- Saturday in March or April; 8:30-1:30pm
- Regroup to create a Strategic Plan for the next two years

Inclusion & Welcome Sticker: Beyond Inclusion • Beyond Pride • You Belong Here

****New Commission Day and/or Time (Agenda Item #11)***

- Currently meet the first (1st) Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm.
- Examples of proposed new days: Second Tuesday of the month; Third Tuesday of the month; First Wednesday of the month; Third Thursday of the month.
- Examples of proposed new times: 3:00-5:00pm; 4:00-6:00pm; 5:00-7:00pm
- Excluded:
 - Fourth Tuesday of the month -> Commission on the Status of Women meets.
 - Recommend staying away from Mondays due to national holidays.
- Starting March 1, 2023, San Mateo County is requiring all board and commission members to meet in-person. Let's strategically discuss meeting locations at December Meeting.

Dear San Mateo County Board and Commission Members:

I write to update you on recent actions at the state level that will require a return to in-person meetings beginning March 1, 2023, for all County Boards and Commissions.

As you are aware, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom declared a statewide State of Emergency and issued several Executive Orders that adjusted the rules for Brown Act bodies to allow for online participation in public meetings. The Legislature followed suit with the passage of AB 361 (Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021), allowing these bodies to conduct virtual meetings under streamlined procedures for remote participation as long as a state of emergency remains in effect and the local agency finds that requiring participants to attend in-person meetings presents an imminent risk to public health and safety.

Recently, Governor Newsom announced that the COVID-19 State of Emergency will end on February 28, 2023. As a result, Brown Act bodies will no longer be able to conduct remote meetings under the provisions of AB 361 after February 28, 2023 unless the State of Emergency is unexpectedly extended or renewed.

You have probably heard of newly passed legislation, AB 2449 (Chapter 285, Statutes of 2022), that changes the current rules under which members of Brown Act bodies can attend meetings remotely. However, as explained in more detail below, a majority of the Brown Act body members must attend the meeting in person; the options for remote attendance are quite limited, and to plan and allow for such options would cause a significant administrative burden.

As a result, the County Executive's Office is instructing all County Boards and Commissions to return to in-person meetings by March 1, 2023, as the limited remote attendance options under AB 2449 will not apply.

What is AB 2449?

AB 2449 is legislation signed by Governor Newsom on September 13, 2022, establishing alternative teleconferencing procedures for all Brown Act bodies.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Brown Act bodies were required to meet in person. There have always been options for members of Brown Act-covered bodies to attend meetings remotely by teleconference. Still, those options carry significant requirements, such as posting an agenda outside all teleconference locations, identifying the teleconference locations on the agenda, and allowing the public to enter the teleconference location. For example, Board members who wished to attend a meeting from home were required to post the agenda outside their homes, their homes' addresses must be listed on the agenda, and they must open up their homes to members of the public during the meeting. These requirements were considered so inconvenient and onerous that utilizing them to participate in public meetings from a private home was rare before the pandemic. The Governor's executive orders and AB 361 loosened these requirements in light of the pandemic, suspending several of these

requirements and allowing extremely flexible procedures for participating in meetings from home. However, as noted above, that flexibility ends when the State of Emergency ends.

AB 2449 establishes new grounds for members of Brown Act bodies to appear remotely without all of the teleconferencing requirements listed above. However, it only applies in very specific situations, such as when a member experiences certain listed life circumstances or emergency situations. In addition, a member can only use the remote attendance options under AB 2449 a few times a year. It is impossible for a member to plan to participate in a County Board or Commission solely by remote attendance in an ongoing matter. It is also important to note that AB 2449 does not allow for an entirely remote meeting, as at least a quorum of the Brown Act body must attend the meeting in person. In sum, the pandemic practice of conducting online meetings will sunset on February 28, 2023 (unless the Governor unexpectedly extends the State of Emergency), and AB 2449 does not allow that practice to continue. Instead, it provides solely for the occasional individual attendance via online participation when certain circumstances occur.

Finally, perhaps most relevant to County boards and commissions, for Brown Act bodies to avail themselves of AB 2449's allowance for occasional remote meeting attendance, each meeting must allow for remote public participation and in-person public participation. The body would be required to host a robust "hybrid" meeting by holding the meeting in a physical space *and* providing either a two-way audiovisual platform or a two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting so the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting and provide comments. The agenda must identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option, internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.

What happens to AB 361 now that AB 2449 has been signed into law?

The authority provided to Brown Act bodies to meet in an all-virtual format as granted under AB 361 will cease on February 28, 2023, when Governor Newsom lifts the State of Emergency. While AB 361 does not sunset until the end of 2023, the Governor would need to declare another State of Emergency for Brown Act bodies to be able to return to an all-virtual meeting format. This is not expected to occur.

Thus, with reasonable certainty, starting on March 1, 2023, Brown Act bodies will be required to meet in person once again. Members of those bodies would only have the option to attend meetings remotely under the stricter provisions of AB 2449 or traditional Brown Act teleconference requirements.

Why is Governor Newsom lifting the State of Emergency?

In his announcement, the Governor cites improved pandemic-related healthcare conditions and operational preparedness (including vaccine and boosters, testing, treatments, and other mitigation measures like masking and indoor ventilation) as two reasons for ending the COVID-19 State of Emergency. By waiting until the end of February 2023 to lift the order, the Governor believes he will be giving healthcare

systems the needed flexibility to deal with any potential surge that may emerge in December and January following the holidays.

How will meetings of County Boards and Commissions proceed, given the passage of AB 2449?

After carefully reviewing the County's current technical and staffing support capacity, my office has determined that it cannot currently meet all the procedural and substantive requirements of AB 2449 for County Boards and Commissions to avail themselves of AB 2449's remote attendance options.

Therefore, all County Boards and Commissions should plan to return to in-person meetings on March 1, 2023.

What happens if I'm sick?

If a temporary health condition or family circumstances occasionally prevent you from attending in person, we ask that you focus on your health and family and, without regret, stay home.

What support will the County Executive's Office provide for a return to in-person meetings?

To assist in this transition, I have asked Connie Juarez-Diroll, Principal Management Analyst in my office, to work with you should you need help finding new meeting spaces and your assigned County Attorney in answering legal questions. Before you return to in-person meetings, you will also receive information on available COVID-19 services and resources the County Health System provides.

Finally, in the coming year, my office will continue to work closely with our statewide associations to advocate for changes to the Brown Act that would provide greater flexibility for Boards and Commissions to meet in an all-virtual format, given its many benefits for increased public engagement across our County.

I thank you for your resilience over these last two-and-half years of the COVID-19 pandemic and for your continued service to our County. My staff and I look forward to a return to in-person meetings and connecting with you in person in 2023.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Connie directly.

Thank you,

Mike Callagy (he/him)*

County Executive

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www.smcgov.org

To: San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission

From: Chloe Chan

Date: 10/25/22

Subject: Youth Commission Updates

Overview, Last Youth Commission Meeting: Committee Report-Outs

At our last Youth Commission meeting, every committee (Civic Engagement, Education & Economic Development, Environmental Justice, Health & Wellness, Immigrant Youth) reported out their plans for the year. Attached are the salient points from each presentation.

Update:

- Environmental Justice Committee
 - The committee is continuing previous commissioners' work to spread the [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) to 6 new local County High School Districts. We also hope to collaborate with the Office of Education on the Environmental Youth Leadership Network, in which we will plan the annual Environmental Youth Summit and create our own symposium for local youth who are interested in learning from guest speakers, discovering outreach opportunities, and connecting with other youth with similar interests. We will create further solidarity between large Environmental Justice organizations and the Youth Commission. These include but are not limited to the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and California Environmental Justice Alliance. Though still in the works, we hope to start a new project regarding pescadero and safe access to clean water.

Update:

- Health and Education
 - This group is focused on promoting health and wellness through social media this year, and therefore reach more youth. They plan on starting a Declaration on drug use/vaping/marijuana, though this is still in the brainstorming phase. As a committee, one of their new goals this year is to host a health and wellness walk/hike at a park to advocate for mental health and physical wellness. Finally, they hope to branch out to address food insecurity throughout the county, by working with food banks, grocery stores, and schools to identify and solve the problem.

Update:

- Civic Engagement

- The Civic Engagement committee's goal this year is to increase voter turnout and better educate youth on their voting rights. They plan to create an outreach initiative, collaborate with Vote 16, and compile a contact list for guest speakers.

Update:

- Immigrant Youth
 - This year, focusing on immigrants knowing their rights. Working on a red card initiative, or an "I know my rights" card for immigrants to use in an event that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement questions them. This committee is continuing to plan the Immigrant Youth Scholarship, with the intent of broadcasting it to a greater audience this year. They will reach out to organizations to find speakers for the event.

Update:

- Education and Economic Development
 - This group is working towards writing an equitable education declaration which they have already started drafting based on past commissioners' work. They have assigned in depth group roles for this project, and will continue to seek outreach opportunities and adult mentors for this project.

I will be sure to keep everyone informed on Youth Commission events that we all can participate in- More to come ahead! Thank you for your time and attention.

TransACTION Day of Change*

Friday, Nov 18, 2022

3:00-5:30PM

Courthouse Square, Redwood City



SCAN ME

In honor of *Transgender Day of Remembrance, we invite you to **TransACTION Day of Change** where you can commit to #endTDOR.

This event will feature Resource Booths, an Allegiance Wall, Reading of the Names, and a Candlelight Vigil.

TransACTION Day of Change is free, inclusive, and spotlights resources, services and information for trans and gender-diverse community members and their friends and families.

Provided in partnership with:

CORA
Evergreen Giving Tree
Island United Church of Foster City
Redwood City Public Library
Redwood City
SMC LGBTQ Commission
SMC Pride Center
SMC Pride Initiative
Office of Diversity & Equity, BHRS

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