

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood Neighborhood Council

Name: Eric Coestad

Phone Number: (415) 688-1136

Email: ericnwwnc@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/01/2023

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 03/01/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-0002-S16

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) calls for urgent changes to the Brown Act which would allow neighborhood councils the option to hold remote board and committee meetings. NWWNC therefore asks the legislature and our state legislators to approve SB 411 without delay and asks the City Council to advocate for it. On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared an Emergency in the state of California due to COVID-19. On March 17, the Governor signed Executive Order



- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Senate Bill: [411](#)

Title: Vehicles: Open Meetings: Teleconferences: Bodies with Appointed Membership

Position: Support

Council File: [23-0002-S16](#)

Title: Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System / Remote Meetings / Ralph M. Brown Act Amendment

Position: Support

Council File: [23-0002-S17](#)

Title: Local Legislative Bodies / Virtual Meetings / Ralph M. Brown Act Amendment

Position: Support

Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) calls for urgent changes to the Brown Act which would allow neighborhood councils the option to hold remote board and committee meetings. NWWNC therefore asks the legislature and our state legislators to approve SB 411 without delay and asks the City Council to advocate for it.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared an Emergency in the state of California due to COVID-19. On March 17, the Governor signed Executive Order #N-29-20, which modified the Brown Act to permit local bodies to meet virtually. In the City of Los Angeles, this also applied to neighborhood councils.

On April 17, 2020, EmpowerLA released a Virtual Governance Plan for neighborhood councils and authorized them to meet via Zoom beginning May 1.

Since then, NWWNC and its stakeholder committees have been meeting virtually. Given that people no longer have to appear in person, we have noticed a great increase in the number of public commenters and general public participation across the neighborhood council system. This has led to more robust meetings and deeper community engagement than previously possible. Additionally, virtual meetings ensure that even those working, at home with children, or otherwise unavailable to come in person to meetings are still able to participate; it has strengthened and made our local democracy more equitable.

Furthermore, virtual neighborhood council meetings reduce the need for people to drive to and from meetings, helping us achieve our climate goals. They also provide a safe option for those concerned about getting out of a board meeting late at night, and don't burden neighborhood councils financially, which often have to pay to rent meeting space.

CC: California State Senator Ben Allen

California State Assemblymember Isaac Bryan

Chair of the State Senate Senate Governance and Finance Committee Anna Caballero

Chair of the California State Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary Thomas Umberg

Chair of the California State Assembly Committee on Local Government Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

Chair of the California State Assembly Committee on Judiciary Brian Maienschein

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