

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](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

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

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: PICO Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(15) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/08/2023

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 02/09/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-0002-S17

Agenda Date: 02/08/2023

Item Number: 12(b)

Summary: The P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council is in support of City Council file 23-0002-S17 for legislative action that would amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies, including appointed boards, commissions, advisory bodies, and Neighborhood Councils to continue to conduct most meetings virtually in the absence of any special circumstances, subject to appropriate safeguards to ensure full and robust opportunities for public participation, including by persons who lack means of digital access. 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 2020, the P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council along with our 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. 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 has improved sustainability options which help to 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. The P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council supports urgent changes to the Brown Act.



**P.I.C.O. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
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**PRESIDENT**  
Brad Kane

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
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**SECRETARY**  
Aura Vasquez

**TREASURER**  
Richard Mannino (Interim)

**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Brendan Nelson

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Date: February 9, 2023

To: Los Angeles City Council

Re: Council File # 23-0002-S16  
Support For Amending The Ralph M. Brown Act To Permit The City Of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System To Choose To Operate Remote Meetings Indefinitely.

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

The P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council is in support of City Council file 23-0002-S16 to amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to permit the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System to choose to operate remote meetings indefinitely.

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 2020, the P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council along with our 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. 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 has improved sustainability options which help to 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. The P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council supports urgent changes to the Brown Act which would allow neighborhood councils the option to hold remote board and committee meetings, and urge the City of Los Angeles to support efforts at the state level to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,

Brad S. Kane  
President