

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cindy Bloom

**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2023 10:36 PM

**Council File No:** 23-1114

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in favor of allowing NCs to make their own decisions on whether or not to hold their meetings in person or virtually. My personal preference is to have the general board meetings in person, but hold the committee meetings via zoom. Attendance at general meetings solely via zoom during the pandemic resulted in low public attendance (zoom burnout) and some attendees had technical difficulties. Committees have fewer attendees and therefore, are much easier to manage via zoom. Board members are required to attend the general board meeting, plus a minimum of one committee meeting monthly. Assuming there are 4 members per committee and there are 5 committees per NC, the average NC would reduce the carbon footprint of 240 round trips per year to attend an in-person committee meeting. Also, there are some committee members who many have mobility problems and it would accommodate their needs.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dino DeMarco

**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2023 05:47 PM

**Council File No:** 23-1114

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support holding NCouncil meetings Virtually by Zoom or Dial in, since it allows citizens to join easily without traveling to a physical location. It reduces a carbon footprint, and allows people to engage more easily. This is a no brainer.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Angela Gonzales-Torres

**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2023 05:13 PM

**Council File No:** 23-1114

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a longtime resident of Highland Park and as the current President of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (speaking as an individual), I support the resolution allowing Neighborhood Councils to meet virtually. I agree that allowing virtual meetings to occur during the pandemic proved an increased public participation and eliminated barriers to participation, especially for our seniors, parents, youth, and otherwise those who would need to drive to attend a meeting. I encourage the adoption of the resolution.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dolores Spears  
**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2023 04:57 PM  
**Council File No:** 23-1114  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I support CF 23-1114 and I urge City Council to support this Resolution. See attached letter.

October 31, 2023

Honorable Members,  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St., City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: CF 23-1114: Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils/SB 411/Teleconferencing/Remote Meetings/Brown Act Modification/California Government Code/COVID-19 Pandemic**

During the pandemic Neighborhood Councils were teleconferencing our meetings via ZOOM. It turned out to be very convenient relative to safety concerns, as well as meeting our quorum goals.

It was especially convenient for Board Members, who due to work, family and other obligations, could not meet in person. Several Members were so conscientious about participating in our meetings, although out of town, were able to participate in the meeting via ZOOM.

After the pandemic was lifted, NC's were notified that we could/should develop Hybrid meetings. One of our Board Members, Theresa Maysonet, developed a Hybrid system, where not only will our stakeholders continue to participate in meetings, Board Members as well. While visiting one of our Board meetings, DONE representatives were so impressed with our teleconferencing system, they plan to use it as a model for other NC's

Currently there is a downside to the Hybrid/Teleconferencing system for Board Members who are unable to attend in-person meetings. Although we are able to participate in discussions via Zoom, we are unable to vote.

For our October meeting, although rare, we were unable to conduct NC business, due to our inability to reach an in-person quorum, due to illness and other obligations. Some Board Members still have a concern with Covid. The Officials have declared the pandemic over, but the County Health Department states that Covid is on the rise and we are going into Flu season.

If Board Members were allowed teleconference vote NC members could maintain quorum obligations, fully participate in meetings and not have an absence counted against them.

Speaking as an individual Board Member of United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC), I whole heartedly request City Council to support the above stated resolution.

Respectfully,

Dolores Spears, UNNC Board Member  
Outreach Chairperson

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mr. Rivas

**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2023 04:24 PM

**Council File No:** 23-1114

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge the Council to support the Resolution to allow Neighborhood Councils to allow teleconferencing in all public meetings. Virtual meetings allow for greater participation. Adopting this resolution will allow the citizens of Los Angeles to better access city government and thereby provide feedback to their Neighborhood Councils on the issues pressing their communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Celeste Longway

**Date Submitted:** 10/31/2023 04:33 PM

**Council File No:** 23-1114

**Comments for Public Posting:** I feel that having the Neighborhood council meetings not live but via Zoom is a travesty. It does blocks or makes very difficult for participation of community members to be seen or heard. It's almost impossible for someone who is not used to these technical ways of doing things to get connected. Even if you happen to get connected you are unable to see the committee members and get the jist of the meeting. It is UNFAIR to the community. The meetings should be in person and open to the public. I feel the way it's been since COVID, has cheated the public from knowing what's going on in their own community and to be able to comment or vote on important issues that concern them. Please return to live Neighborhood Council meetings so the neighborhood can be involved.