

CC 6-29-21 Item 3.4 Hybrid meetings

martha O'Connell <[REDACTED]>

Wed 6/23/2021 4:16 PM

To: Taber, Toni <[REDACTED]>; Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>; martha O'Connell <[REDACTED]>; Ryan Jasinsky <[REDACTED]>; Andrea Wheeler <[REDACTED]>

 1 attachments (1 MB)

CC 6-29-21.pdf;

[External Email]

Please enter this email with the four pages of attachments for the Council meeting on 6-29-21 Item 3.4 Hybrid meetings

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May 5, 2021

TO: Mayor Sam Liccardo

Members of the City Council

RE: Recommendation to Support Remote Access to Commission Meetings

[The San Jose City Attorney's office informed the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) that the recommendation below is beyond the purview of the HCDC. Therefore, the opinions expressed in this letters represent the views of the below-signed Commissioners and does not represent the view of the Commission as a whole. Please note that the letter is unanimously signed by all current Commissioners.]

We, the undersigned, recommend that the San Jose City Council take action, including supporting state-level initiatives, to allow Commissioners, members of the public, and members of San Jose City staff to use remote options, such as phoning-in and videoconferencing, at all future San Jose commission meetings, including HCDC, even after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

We believe that it is imperative to give all members of the San Jose community equitable ability to participate in the HCDC as Commissioners, members of the public, or members of San Jose City staff. The requirement to attend meetings in person prevents many people from participating, including:

- People who cannot leave dependent family members alone at home.
- People who rely on public transportation, which can take significantly longer than driving and offers very limited options at night.
- People who are medically vulnerable, or caretakers for others who are medically vulnerable, and should not attend public gatherings.
- People with physical limitations that require specialized seating, computer equipment, or other accommodations.
- People who cannot get from work to the meetings on time.

San Jose can give many more people the ability to participate in Commission meetings.

In an article titled: "I'm a Disabled Parent. It Took a Pandemic to Let Me Join the P.T.A." (New York Times, Feb. 2, 2021), a parent with a chronic illness describes how she went from feeling isolated from her children's school lives to being a contributing member of the PTA. The city of San Jose should provide the same opportunity to its residents.

Furthermore, as our experience at HCDC has shown, it is particularly easy to have participation in other languages because Zoom provides easy options for simultaneous translation. This can encourage more participation by non-English speaking populations in San Jose.

Recently introduced Assembly Bill 339 would require all public meetings to have remote options and also require language options such as closed-captioning and translators. We the undersigned support such changes for members of the public, Commissioners, and members of San Jose City staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Wheeler

Roberta Moore

Martha O'Connell

Victoria Partida

Ryan Jasinsky

Huy Tran

Alex Shoor

Barry Del Buono

Julie Quinn

Nhi Duong

Ruben Navarro

May 13, 2021

TO: Mayor, Council and City Manager

FROM: Martha O'Connell

Ryan Jasinky

RE: Commissioner Access to Remote Meeting Participation

For purposes of identification Ryan Jasinsky serves on the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) representing the Mobilehome Park owners and Martha O'Connell serves on the HCDC representing the Mobilehome Park residents. The opinions expressed in this letter are our own.

A memo titled "Hybrid Public Meetings," signed by four Council members and the Mayor, passed out of the Rules Committee on 5-12-21. It directed the City Manager to return to the full Council with a plan for "hosting hybrid public meetings that allow both in-person and virtual public participation."

In the background section of that memo five questions were asked. We address question #2: "Is the public interest served by allowing members of the Council, Committees and Commissions to also participate remotely under certain circumstances?"

The answer is a resounding yes.

Commissioners who are immunocompromised or who are the primary caregiver for an immunocompromised individual need to be able to attend meetings from a remote setting as all of us continue to struggle with Covid. To not allow such impacted Commissioners to do so is to make them choose between public service and what could be a matter of life and death. Such an action would have a disparate impact on the disabled.

On 5-9-21 the Mercury News published an article titled "Aging, ill call 'herd immunity' essential. Several disabled San Jose residents spoke about their unique situations in relation to Covid. The Mercury reported, "But with other vaccines,

immunocompromised people are less likely to develop a robust antibody response. So if they get Covid-19, they are at greater risk of severe illness and death, doctors say.” Even with the ‘vaccine’ some disabled may still be at full risk as one fully vaccinated resident with multiple sclerosis reported.

On May 27, 2020 we sent a joint email titled “Commissioner Protection – Covid 19” to the Mayor, City Manager and five Council members raising similar issues. Martha had also spoken previously at Rules on May 20, 2020. Remarks were made at that time that we would be fully protected.

We urge that Commissioners be allowed to continue to attend meetings by remote access if they are immunocompromised and/or are the primary caregiver for such a person.

Fw: San Jose all meetings Virtual

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 6/28/2021 4:46 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: tessa woodmansee [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 4:44 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>; Webmaster Manager <webmaster.manager@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Fwd: San Jose all meetings Virtual

[External Email]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **tessa woodmansee** [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 4:40 PM

Subject: San Jose all meetings Virtual

To: Brilliot, Michael <michael.brilliot@sanjoseca.gov>, cheryl.wessling@sanjoseca.gov <cheryl.wessling@sanjoseca.gov>, chu.chang@sanjoseca.gov <chu.chang@sanjoseca.gov>, <Mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov>, Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>, Peralez, Raul <raul.peralez@sanjoseca.gov>, <chappy.jones@sanjoseca.gov>, <magdalena.carrasco@sanjoseca.gov>, <sylvia.arenas@sanjoseca.gov>, <maya.esparza@sanjoseca.gov>, Sam Liccardo <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>, Foley, Pam <pam.foley@sanjoseca.gov>, Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>, <david.cohen@sanjoseca.gov>

Dear Mayor, San Jose Council Members, Planning Staff,

oops, This letter WAS sent before I was finished.

Here it is: PLEASE READ TO THE END as critical information was added.

This Letter is to URGENTLY address a DEMOCRATIC, American with Disabilities, pandemic, pollution, climate crisis, equity, ecological collapse, drought, fire, issues as they relate to the demand for all public council meetings to remain virtual to address the issues above for all commission meetings and all public meetings of the city of San Jose for the people of San Jose.

I, Tessa Woodmansee, as the President of the Alameda Village Association in the Garden Alameda Greater Rose Garden neighborhood am DEMANDING for all the above meetings to be held virtually

forever as this virtual forum helps to accommodate and address the above-referenced crisis.

I have been told by Edward Saum, chair of the Historic Landmark Commission and Vice President and Director for Planning and **Land Use** of the Shasta / Hanchett Park. Neighborhood Association. that the August 4th Meeting of the Historic Landmark commission which is addressing on its agenda the horrific and secretive planning of the proposed 5 story 24/7 operation of a Hotel in our historic neighborhood.

This meeting is planned to only be on August 4th at City Hall. Mr Saum said the city does not have the ability technology for some strange reason cannot have this be a hybrid meeting with both virtual and in-person participation.

In addition, I have been contacting my state representatives and governor Newsom to extend forever the ability to have virtual meetings without the Brown Act issue of having the leaderships addresses exposed and their privacy invaded based on Brown Act issues that need to be overridden as we not meet in "the Cloud" and have been working hard to supply hardware and software to all citizens to participate virtually.

So to solve this problem for the August 4th Meeting, the city must provide virtual participation for the reasons and crises listed above.

As the capital of Silicon Valley providing virtual network outreach, the in-house meeting participants should not be difficult. Our schools are currently providing both in-person and virtual access for our students.

Our democracy and the health of our planet and its inhabitants are better served by virtual meetings.

Please respond back to this demand for virtual meetings to continue indefinitely and because of the urgency of the Historic Landmark Commission meeting no later than August 4th and as soon as possible due to all the meetings that are being held by our city in this urgent time when public participation is critical as we are facing the end of life on earth for humans and the other millions of species and as "We are on the verge of the (climate) abyss", says United Nations [Secretary-General. António Guterres](#) of Portugal.

THE Sixth Intergovernmental panel on climate change report states,
" But simply swapping a gas guzzler for a Tesla or planting billions of trees to offset business-as-usual ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT, THE REPORT WARNS:

WE NEED TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE OPERATING ON PROCESSES and BEHAVIORS AT ALL LEVELS: INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITIES, BUSINESS, INSTITUTIONS, AND GOVERNMENTS, "
IT SAYS " WE MUST REDEFINE OUR WAY OF LIFE AND CONSUMPTION."

Keeping our Meetings Virtual helps with this critical climate crisis, pollution, and democratic issues and is part of our TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE that our climate crisis demands.

I look forward to having this issue of providing virtual meetings for all city of San Jose meetings kept virtual and look forward to having this issue resolved for the people and for the planet.

Please respond back to this letter to communicate your progress on making this demand for virtual meetings continue indefinitely based on the many crises we face and to follow the science that is screaming at us for TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE ON processes and behaviors at all levels.

WARM REGARDS,

Tessa Woodmansee



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Clean Air and Quiet Neighborhoods--A Natural Right.

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