

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, State, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Ralph M. Brown Act dictates the public access requirements of local government agency meetings in California, including the Los Angeles City Council, requiring that appropriate public notice be given for non-private meetings of a public governing body, board, commission, or committee, and that the opportunity for comment be provided to members of the public on any item before the body; and

WHEREAS, efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic required that public meetings be held virtually, and public comment was adapted to accommodate remote speakers; and

WHEREAS, AB 339 (Lee and Garcia) would require all city councils and boards of supervisors governing jurisdictions containing at least 250,000 persons to take public comment both in-person and remotely via two-way telephone or the internet, affording equal time to in-person and remote speakers, and would additionally require open and public meetings of a city council that currently provides video streaming to continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, AB 339 would present myriad technical and practical complications for governing bodies, such as allowing remote speakers to manipulate and willfully contravene established public comment regulations, obstructing the important duties of said public bodies; and

WHEREAS, the passage of AB 339 would result in a dependency on unreliable communication technology to perform City business, which could result in delays or the cancellation of public meetings; and

WHEREAS, AB 339 does not contain provisions for reimbursement of costs associated with remote meetings, meaning jurisdictions would be mandated to establish and maintain virtual meeting capabilities entirely at their own cost; and

WHEREAS, AB 339 does not apply to the State legislature, but if transparency and public input should be goals for public bodies, these ideals should apply to all governing bodies in the State, including the legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to AB 339 (Lee), which would require all city councils and boards of supervisors governing jurisdictions containing at least 250,000 persons to take public comment both in-person and remotely via two-way telephone or the internet.