

MOTION

One significant change COVID-19 brought to society and the City of Los Angeles is the systemic change to remote work and the ability for effective video conferencing for meetings and conferences. Trips between City buildings for regular meetings were proven operationally unnecessary. Remote Committee, Commission, and Council meetings, rather than limiting public participation as might be presumed, have actually provided a more convenient venue for full-time workers or parents without daycare to call in rather than take time off work or find a babysitter, drive all the way to City Hall and pay for parking for an uncertain amount of time. In addition, our greenhouse footprint was measurably reduced for a time.

Yet, despite the obvious societal benefit to our environment, many have continued some unnecessary habits that further degrade the global climate. For example, each in-person climate change conference actually physically increases greenhouse gas emissions due to increased climate emissions caused by airline flights of attendees.

If we as a human society are actually serious about addressing climate change instead of continuing an ever faster slide into climate chaos, we must halt greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, in every way possible, and make aggressive societal changes to our habits and perceived norms. Habits and norms can be altered without damaging the social or economic fabric of society.

Toward that end, as part of their country's Climate Law, France is in the process of abolishing flights between cities that are linked by a train journey of less than two and a half hours. On Friday, December 2, 2022, the European Commission gave the go-ahead for France to prevent flights between Paris Orly airport and Nantes, Lyon, and Bordeaux.

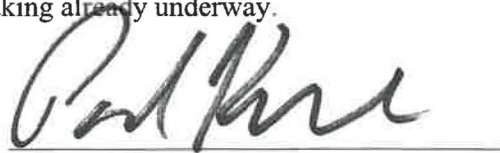
Cities, including Los Angeles, should follow France's lead and do everything in their power to reduce unnecessary airline flights and automobile trips.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Office to report back in 60 days on the following:

1. The impact of having all City Departments, including the Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles World Airports, and the Port of Los Angeles, cease travel to conferences, including cost and greenhouse gas emissions savings, possible loss of information and/or influence of the City, and on a strategy to communicate to all relevant conference hosts that they should be held via video technology if they want the participation of the City of Los Angeles;
2. The feasibility of having all City departments cease daily automobile travel to meetings to the extent possible and that all meetings going forward be accomplished via video conferencing, including Council committees, City commissions, and other meetings.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Personnel Department be directed to report back in 60 days on the impacts of officially changing City policy to optimize remote work among all City staff wherever possible and include the above items in any telecommuting policy making already underway.

PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:



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