



Office of the City Manager

October 22, 2020

To: Berkeley Boards and Commissions

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Commission Meetings During COVID-19 Emergency

This memo serves to provide a summary and update of the status of meetings of Berkeley Boards and Commissions during the COVID-19 emergency declaration.

On March 10, 2020, the City Council ratified the proclamation of the Director of Emergency Services for a state of local emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency proclamation has been renewed twice by the Council and remains in effect.

On March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 69,331-N.S. which placed limitations of the meetings of City legislative bodies, including all boards and commissions. The resolution allows for commissions to meet to conduct time-sensitive, legally mandated business with the authorization of the City Manager. Since that time, several commissions have obtained this approval and held meetings; many other commissions have not met at all since March.

The City Manager has periodically reviewed the status of commission meetings with the City Council Agenda & Rules Committee. Recently, at the October 12, 2020, Agenda & Rules Committee meeting, the City Manager presented a proposal to allow all commissions to meet under limited circumstances. The Committee voted to endorse the City Manager's recommendation.

Effective October 12, 2020, all City boards and commissions may meet once to develop and finalize their work plan for 2021 and to complete any Council referrals directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. A second meeting may be held to complete this work with specific authorization by the City Manager. It is recommended that the meeting(s) occur by the end of February 2021.

Commissions that have been granted permission to meet under Resolution No. 69,331-N.S. may continue to meet pursuant to their existing authorization, and may also meet to develop their 2021 work plan.

Commissions that have not requested meetings pursuant to the Resolution No. 69,331-N.S. may meet pursuant to the limitations listed above.

To assist commissions with the development of their work plan and to provide the City Council with a consistent framework to review the work plans, the City Manager has developed the following items to consider in developing the work plan that is submitted to the City Council agenda.

Prompts for Commissions to use in work plan:

- What commission items for 2021 have a direct nexus with the COVID-19 response or are the result of a City Council referral pertaining to COVID-19?
- What commission items for 2021 are required for statutory reasons?
- What commission items for 2021 are required for budgetary or fund allocation reasons?
- What commission items for 2021 support council-adopted or voter-adopted mission critical projects or programs?
- What are the anticipated staff demands (above and beyond baseline) for analysis, data, etc., to support commission work in 2021 (baseline duties = posting agendas, creating packets, attend meetings, minutes, etc.)?

The limitations on commission meetings are due to the need to direct staff resources and the resources of city legislative bodies to the pandemic response. Many of the staff assigned as commission secretaries are engaged in work with the City Emergency Operations Center or have been assigned new specific duties related to the impacts of the pandemic.

Meeting frequency for boards and commissions will continue to be evaluated on a regular basis by the City Manager in consultation with Department Heads and the City Council. More frequent meetings by commissions will be permitted as the conditions under COVID-19 dictate.

Thank you for your service on our boards and commissions. The City values the work of our commissions and we appreciate your partnership and understanding as we address this pandemic as a resilient and vibrant community.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 69,331-N.S.
2. List of Commissions with Meeting Data

cc: Mayor and City Councilmembers
Senior Leadership Team

RESOLUTION NO. 69,331-N.S.

RATIFYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER REGARDING MEETINGS OF BERKELEY LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code section 2.88.040, the City Manager, serving as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, the proclamation was warranted by virtue of the extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in the City caused by pandemic in the form of the global spread of a severe acute respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus ("COVID-19"), including confirmed cases in California and the San Francisco Bay Area, and presumed cases in Alameda County prompting the County to declare a local health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the proclamation of the Director of Emergency Services was ratified by the City Council on March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the continued spread of COVID-19 and increase in community transmission cases in surrounding counties warrant further measures be taken by the City to protect the community; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer has issued guidelines for limiting mass gatherings; and

WHEREAS, certain limitations on the meetings of legislative bodies in the City of Berkeley is warranted; and

WHEREAS, the continued essential functions of the City and certain legislative bodies must continue for time-sensitive, legally mandated actions; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services presented recommendations to the Agenda & Rules Committee on March 12, 2020 regarding the meetings of legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Agenda & Rules Committee recommended that said recommendations be forwarded to the City Council for acknowledgement and ratification.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the following recommendations issued by the Director of Emergency Services and the Public Health Officer regarding limitations and practices for legislative bodies of the City of Berkeley are hereby acknowledged and ratified:

Section 1. Boards and Commissions

Commissions listed below may continue to meet only if they have time-sensitive, legally mandated business to complete, as determined by the Director of Emergency Services. The City may consider teleconferencing for these commissions, if feasible.

Design Review Committee
Fair Campaign Practices Commission
Housing Advisory Commission (limited to quasi-judicial activities)
Joint Subcommittee on the Implementation of State Housing Laws
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Open Government Commission
Personnel Board
Planning Commission
Police Review Commission
Zoning Adjustments Board

Commissions in Category B shall not meet for a period of 60 days. This will be re-evaluated at the Agenda & Rules Committee meeting on April 13, 2020. A Commission in Category B may convene a meeting if it has time-sensitive, legally-mandated business to complete, as determined by the Director of Emergency Services.

Category B

Animal Care Commission
Cannabis Commission
Civic Arts Commission
Children, Youth, and Recreation Commission
Commission on Aging
Commission on Disability
Commission on Labor
Commission on the Status of Women
Community Environmental Advisory Commission
Community Health Commission
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Elmwood Business Improvement District Advisory Board
Energy Commission
Homeless Commission
Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Housing Advisory Commission
Human Welfare and Community Action Commission
Measure O Bond Oversight Committee
Mental Health Commission
Parks and Waterfront Commission
Peace and Justice Commission
Public Works Commission
Solano Avenue Business Improvement District Advisory Board
Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts

Transportation Commission
Youth Commission
Zero Waste Commission
Loan Administration Board

Section 2. City Council Policy Committees

The Agenda & Rules Committee and the Budget & Finance Committee may continue to meet to fulfill their legislative and advisory responsibilities. All other Policy Committees (Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability, Public Safety, Land Use, Housing & Economic Development, and Health, Life Enrichment Equity & Community) are suspended indefinitely. The 120-day deadline to consider an item will be tolled during the suspension of business.

Section 3. City Council


For City Council meetings, the City will continue to advise and implement social distancing by limiting the capacity of the Council Chambers, providing an overflow room, attempting to limit the duration of the meeting, only conducting essential business, and limiting or suspending ceremonial items. The City will adhere to and implement the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order #N-25-20 related to the Brown Act and the utilization of technology to facilitate participation.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on March 17, 2020 by the following vote:

Ayes: Bartlett, Davila, Droste, Hahn, Harrison, Kesarwani, Robinson, Wengraf, and Arreguin.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.



Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Attest: 

Mark Numalville, City Clerk

Boards and Commissions	Meetings Held Under COVID Emergency (through 10/11)	Scheduled Meetings in October	Regular Mtg. Date	Secretary	Department
Zoning Adjustments Board	10	1	2nd & 4th Thur.	Shannon Allen	PLD
Police Review Commission	9	1	2nd & 4th Wed.	Katherine Lee	CM
Fair Campaign Practices Commission	8	1	3rd Thur.	Sam Harvey	CA
Design Review Committee	5	1	3rd Thur.	Anne Burns	PLD
Landmarks Preservation Commission	5	1	1st Thur.	Fatema Crane	PLD
Open Government Commission	5	1	3rd Thur.	Sam Harvey	CA
Homeless Services Panel of Experts	4	1	1st Wed	Brittany Carnegie	HHCS
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission	3	1	4th Wed.	Keith May	FES
Parks and Waterfront Commission	3	1	2nd Wed.	Roger Miller	PRW
Planning Commission	3		1st Wed.	Alene Pearson	PLD
Public Works Commission	3	1	1st Thur.	Joe Enke	PW
Civic Arts Commission	2		4th Wed.	Jennifer Lovvorn	OED
Solano Avenue BID Advisory Board	2		Contact Secretary	Eleanor Hollander	OED
Elmwood BID Advisory Board	1		Contact Secretary	Kieron Slaughter	OED
Joint Subcom. on Implementation of State Housing Laws	1		4th Wed.	Alene Pearson	PLD
Mental Health Commission	1		4th Thur.	Jamie Works-Wright	HHCS
Personnel Board	1		1st Mon.	La Tanya Bellow	HR
Transportation Commission	1	1	3rd Thur.	Farid Javandel	PW
Animal Care Commission	0		3rd Wed.	Amelia Funghi	CM
Cannabis Commission	0		1st Thur.		PLD
Children, Youth, and Recreation Commission	0		4th Monday	Stephanie Chu	PRW
Commission on Aging	0		3rd Wed.	Richard Castrillon	HHCS
Commission on Disability	0		1st Wed.	Dominika Bednarska	PW
Commission on Labor	0		3rd Wed., alternate mo	Nathan Dahl	HHCS
Commission on the Status of Women	0		4th Wed.	Shallon Allen	CM
Community Environmental Advisory Commission	0		2nd Thur.	Viviana Garcia	PLD
Community Health Commission	0		4th Thur.	Roberto Terrones	HHCS
Energy Commission	0		4th Wed.	Billi Romain	PLD
Homeless Commission	0		2nd Wed.	Brittany Carnegie	HHCS
Housing Advisory Commission	0		1st Thur.	Mike Uberti	HHCS
Human Welfare & Community Action Commission	0		3rd Wed.	Mary-Claire Katz	HHCS
Loan Administration Board	0		Contact Secretary	Kieron Slaughter	OED
Measure O Bond Oversight Committee	0		3rd Monday	Amy Davidson	HHCS
Peace and Justice Commission	0		1st Mon.	Nina Goldman	CM
Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts	0		3rd Thur.	Dechen Tsering	HHCS
Youth Commission	0		2nd Mon.	Ginsi Bryant	PRW
Zero Waste Commission	0		4th Mon.	Heidi Obermeit	PW