

1 [Amending Board Rules of Order - Providing Remote Public Comment Opportunities]

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3 **Motion amending the Board of Supervisors' Rules of Order by revising Rule 1.3.3 (In-**
4 **Person and Remote Public Comment) to provide for remote public comment**
5 **opportunities for members of the public at committee meetings of the Board.**

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7 WHEREAS, From the onset of the COVID-19 health emergency in March 2020, until
8 October 2023, the Board of Supervisors ("Board") provided opportunities for members of the
9 public to provide comment remotely, in order to allow for social distancing and reduce health
10 risks; and

11 WHEREAS, The Board finds that remote public comment has allowed for broader
12 participation in the legislative process and has given voice to a diversity of perspectives from
13 across the City; and

14 WHEREAS, Allowing remote public comment will increase participation in Board
15 committee meetings from people who cannot attend such meetings in person for any number
16 of legitimate reasons, such as childcare or eldercare responsibilities, work schedules, lack of
17 resources, or illness; and

18 WHEREAS, Board of Supervisors committees are the proper venue for public hearings
19 of Ordinances and Resolutions before the Board, per City Charter; now, therefore, be it

20 MOVED, That the Board amends the Rules of Order of the Board of Supervisors to
21 revise Rule 1.3.3 and Rule 3.8 to read as follows:

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23 **1.3.3. In-Person and Remote Public Comment.**

24 Where opportunity for public comment is required under 4.19 (Public Hearings on
25 Appeals), and 4.22 (General Public Comment Before the Full Board of Supervisors), members

1 of the public shall be given the option to comment in-person at a meeting of the Board. Where
2 opportunity for public comment is required under Rules 3.8 (Public Testimony in Committee),
3 members of the public shall be given the option to comment in-person at a meeting of the
4 committee or remotely.

5 The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall offer opportunities to provide remote public
6 comment to members of the public as necessary to enable the participation of people with
7 disabilities, to the extent required by law. For purposes of this Rule 1.3.3, “remotely” means
8 telephonically or otherwise electronically, as determined by the Clerk of the Board of
9 Supervisors.

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11 **3.8. Public Comment at Committee Meetings.**

12 Public comment is welcome on any item on committee agendas. Public comment is not
13 provided on other matters, because committees may consider only items which have been
14 referred to the committee and properly posted, published, and noticed. This is the opportunity
15 to hear public testimony for and against proposed legislation pending before the committee.
16 Remote public comment shall be provided to no more than 15 speakers for each item unless
17 that limit is lifted at the beginning of the committee meeting by a majority vote of the
18 committee, pursuant to Rule 3.20 (Applicable Rules). This 15-speaker limit shall not include
19 those speakers who request to participate remotely due to a disability.

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