

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Keep remote public comment option available to all
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 12:55:19 PM

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisor
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

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From: anastasia Yovanopoulos <shashacooks@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 4:48 PM
To: Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Dorsey, Matt (BOS) <matt.dorsey@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; joel.engario@sfgov.org
Cc: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>
Subject: Keep remote public comment option available to all

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of SF Board of Supervisors,

Re: Keep remote public comment option available to all

The legislation currently under consideration to restrict public comment to "in-person public comment" would stifle the voices of members of the public, and is therefore unfair and undemocratic. I am asking you not to limit public comment only to those physically present in the BOS chambers.

I'm a senior SF resident, in my mid-seventies. It is now a hardship for me to come to City Hall to deliver my public comment. I appreciate the ability to "call-in" to the BOS give public comment. There is little to be gained and much to be lost by eliminating remote public comment.

In the spirit of participatory democracy, please vote no on legislation limiting or ending remote participation options.

Let's preserve and expand participation from seniors, people with disabilities, working people, parents, and everyone. We know now that remote participation is possible. Every public meeting MUST continue to have an option for members of the public to view and make comments from any location.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Anastasia Yovanopoulos
District #8 senior tenant

From: [Miguel A. Galarza](#)
To: oronde.sterling@sterlingframers.com; "[Anne Cervantes, AIA](#)"; [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: "[Nicholas Colina](#)"; "[Tricia Gregory](#)"; afillon@fillonsolis.com; "[Nicole Burgess](#)"; tana@harrishoisting.com; "[LaSonia Mansfield](#)"; "[Lamar Heystek](#)"; "[Matthew Ajiake](#)"; [Darolyn Davis](#); "[Alex Chiu](#)"; [Jones, Dwayne](#); "[Mr. Frank S. Fung](#)"; [Heiken, Emma \(BOS\)](#); [Herrera, Ana \(BOS\)](#); [Souza, Sarah \(BOS\)](#); "[Bruce Giron](#)"
Subject: RE: Opposition to Item 6 Elimination
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2023 5:08:03 AM

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Oronde,
Let talk in the morning.

Miguel Galarza, President

Yerba Buena Engineering

Phone: 415-822-4400

Mobile: 415-7301900

Web: www.yerba-buena.net

Email: mgalarza@yerba-buena.net

1340 Egbert Ave, San Francisco, CA 94124



From: oronde.sterling@sterlingframers.com <oronde.sterling@sterlingframers.com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 5:54 PM
To: 'Anne Cervantes, AIA' <cdastudios@aol.com>; Victor.Young@sfgov.org
Cc: Miguel A. Galarza <mgalarza@yerba-buena.net>; 'Nicholas Colina' <ncolina@ancoiron.com>; 'Tricia Gregory' <tricia@hvyw8inc.com>; afillon@fillonsolis.com; 'Nicole Burgess' <nicole@harrishoisting.com>; tana@harrishoisting.com; 'LaSonia Mansfield' <mansfieldmansfield380@yahoo.com>; 'Lamar Heystek' <president@asianinc.org>; 'Matthew Ajiake' <president@sfaacc.org>; 'Darolyn Davis' <darolyn@davis-pr.com>; 'Alex Chiu' <achiu@chiulaw.com>; 'Dwayne Jones' <djones@rdjent.biz>; 'Mr. Frank S. Fung' <ffung@ed2intl.com>; 'Heiken Emma (MYR)' <emma.heiken@sfgov.org>; 'Herrera, Ana (BOS)' <ana.herrera@sfgov.org>; 'Souza Sarah (BOS)' <sarah.s.souza@sfgov.org>; 'Bruce Giron' <bagiron@gironcms.com>
Subject: RE: Opposition to Item 6 Elimination

Hello everyone. Reaching out to you all for assistance. With me having very little knowledge about the issues we are having as small businesses, I would like to request from the group, information that can go over and study so I can play my part in advocating for us all. I don't mind speaking nor do I mind somebody writing up my script. However, with me not fully understanding the assignment, I won't be able to do my due diligence in playing my part advocating. If anyone can send links, documents, anything thing that I can go over, I would highly appreciate you. Blessings!!!

Best Regards,
Oronde Sterling

From: Anne Cervantes, AIA <cdastudios@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:53 AM

To: Victor.Young@sfgov.org

Cc: Miguel A. Galarza <mgalarza@yerba-buena.net>; Nicholas Colina <ncolina@ancoiron.com>;
Tricia Gregory <tricia@hvyw8inc.com>; Oronde Stelring <oronde.sterling@sterlingframers.com>;
afillon@fillonsolis.com; Nicole Burgess <nicole@harrishoisting.com>; tana@harrishoisting.com;
LaSonia Mansfield <mansfieldmansfield380@yahoo.com>; Lamar Heystek
<president@asianinc.org>; Matthew Ajiake <president@sfaacc.org>; Darolyn Davis <darolyn@davis-pr.com>;
Alex Chiu <achiu@chiulaw.com>; Dwayne Jones <djones@rdjent.biz>; Mr. Frank S. Fung
<ffung@ed2intl.com>; Heiken Emma (MYR) <emma.heiken@sfgov.org>; Herrera, Ana (BOS)
<ana.herrera@sfgov.org>; Souza Sarah (BOS) <sarah.s.souza@sfgov.org>; Bruce Giron
<bagiron@gironcms.com>

Subject: Opposition to Item 6 Elimination

See attached letter.

Anne Cervantes, AIA
Founder and Co-Chair
San Francisco Latino & Black Builder's Association

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From: [regina sneed](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Rules Committee Item 221008 Teleconferencing and remote public comment at meetings
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2023 9:47:50 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors:

I request that the Rules Committee report that the Committee is proposing to forward to the full Board of Supervisors call for maintaining remote access for public comment for all citizens for the reasons listed below in my previous email to the Committee. We are well beyond the time when only persons with disabilities received accommodations.

The policy should be consistent for all the City Commissions as well as for the Board. Some Commissions are just now discussing these issues at their February meetings. From these discussions, I learned that there have been internal discussions with staff, with IT support that will impact what might be provided. For example, a Commissioner on the Commission of Environment indicated that the City IT department will support only one platform for access. That person wanted an easier to use system. So when will the public get to see what options for public access are being proposed and be given the opportunity to help shape the best options.

The City needs to continue remote access for public participation for all.

Regina Sneed
District two residentv

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: regina sneed <reginasneed@yahoo.com>
Date: February 4, 2023 at 1:44:58 PM PST
To: Victor.Young@sfgov.org, Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org,
Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org
Cc: catherine.stefani@sfgov.org
Subject: Rules Committee Item 221008 Teleconferencing and remote public comment at meetings

Dear Rules Committee Members:

I oppose any change in the teleconferencing and remote public comment rules for

the Board of Supervisors and its Committees. This ordinance should be tabled until the general public has lots of notice about this change and it is discussed in every Board Committee and Commission meeting.

I only learned about it on Friday from an email from Gray Panthers and today from an email by Senior and Disability Action. If they are just alerting me about it, I'm sure others who attend Board or Committee meetings have not been given adequate notice.

I am a senior citizen whose health no longer allows me to attend meetings at City hall. During covid I have become more active in monitoring and commenting on legislation I believe that increased participation is true for all resident regardless of age.

Yes this access costs more but it saves in other ways.

1. It helps with the cities environmental goals to decrease emissions affecting global warming.
2. It allows parents, the elderly and people who work to efficiently participate without leaving their office or home. No taking leave, no baby sitter expenses etc.
3. The 72 hour request for accommodations under the old system never really worked. In the last 8 months that I have been working on the military equipment issue, there were changes made in draft ordinances that occurred within the 72 hour period. Since the Rules Committee meets at 10 AM Monday, these changes were sometimes not posted with the original notice for the meeting. This kind of accommodation does not comport with the better universal access for everyone standards we should expect with modern communications tools.
4. All city commissions should offer the same public remote access.
5. No one likes long meetings, but as public officials it is your job. It's in the public interest to increase participation in government.

Please keep the current system allowing for remote public comment.

Thank you.

Regina Sneed
District Two resident

Sent from my iPad

From: [ALLYSON WASHBURN](#)
To: [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Item 5 on Agenda for 2/27/23 Meeting of the BoS Rules Committee
Date: Friday, February 24, 2023 6:19:45 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
Matt Dorsey, Chair
Shamann Walton
Ahsha Safai

Re: Proposal to discontinue remote public comment at meetings of the Board and its committees: **STRONGLY OPPOSE**

San Franciscans for Sunshine, a non-profit organization of citizens advocating for maximizing government transparency and public participation in government, strongly urges the rejection of the above-cited proposal.

Many people who live and/or work in San Francisco have family or job obligations or personal challenges that prevent their in-person attendance at meetings of the city's public bodies. Moreover, medical and epidemiological experts have warned that the COVID-19 pandemic, which has prompted the city to enable remote public comment, is not necessarily over. Democratic principle dictates that this channel remain permanently available.

Sincerely,

Allyson M. Washburn, PhD
Chair, San Franciscans for Sunshine Steering Committee

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net

February 27, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Chair, Rules Committee
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Member, Rules Committee
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Member, Rules Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Agenda Item #5, Board File #221008: Opposition to Discontinuation of Remote Participation in Dial-In Public Comment During Board Meetings**

Dear Chair Dorsey and Rules Committee Members,

Since whatever the Board of Supervisors does regarding setting policy for remote public comment at your meetings will set a precedent for all other Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, and official Committees throughout City government and the non-profit sector that are subject to the Brown Act and our local Sunshine Ordinance, you should continue taking remote public comment.

That's because Board Resolution #270-96 then-Mayor Willie L. Brown signed it into law 27 years ago on March 28, 1996 resolved that it is the *policy* of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco that a call-in telephone system be developed to take public comments to increase public participation in City government.

It was disturbing hearing during the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) Board of Trustees meeting on February 16 discuss whether to continue accepting remote public comments call-in beginning in March after California's COVID emergency orders expire at the end of February.

Supervisor Safai — who is the Board of Supervisors designee to a seat on SFERS' Board and is current President of SFERS's Board — stated during its meeting on February 16 that the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and SFERS Board, are collaboratively working to end taking remote public comments phoned in a “balancing” act to help the City's economic recovery efforts.

At approximately 4:42:12 and again at 5:30:30 on the audio and videotape of SFERS' meeting archived on SFGOV-TV, Safai stated that the *Downtown and Citywide Economic Recovery Working Group* wants to assist in revitalizing the downtown core and Civic Center Areas, which represents about 70% of the City's GDP and City revenue, by encouraging people to attend City policy body meetings in person. Ostensibly that will help out local retail and neighborhood restaurants from spill-over business.

This is a terrible reason to discontinue continue taking remote public comment. The Mayor has, herself, been recently featured in news segments on local TV broadcasts, and in her State-of-the-City speech, acknowledging that San Francisco's downtown economy is not going to come back to pre-COVID pandemic levels.

Supervisor Mandelman was seen on SFGOV-TV passing out proposed amendments to this legislation on February 6 during the first Rules Committee hearing on this legislation, but those amendments aren't posted as of today on the background file page. What happened to those proposed amendments he introduced? Were they withdrawn?

Also, although the Rules Committee discussed the need to amend the 72-hour period in which to submit reasonable accommodations requests to make remote public comment for people with disabilities who can not attend City Hall meetings in-person, there has been no standardized policy announced for all public bodies to uniformly set a more reasonable 12-hour (or shorter) period in which to submit accommodation requests. That must become a priority goal.

I urge you to recommend to the full Board of Supervisors that remote call-in for all San Franciscans — and not just those who are disabled — *be required*, and permanently set as official City policy for all entities subject to the Brown Act.

February 27, 2023

Agenda Item #5, Board File #221008: Don't Forget Board Resolution 270-96

Opposition to Discontinuation of Remote Participation

Page 2

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist/Reporter

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Board President
 The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
 The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 2
 The Honorable Joel Engardio, Supervisor, District 4
 The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5
 The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7
 The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8
 The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9
 Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
 Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee