

Patrick Monette-Shaw

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February 28, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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 Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7
The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable , Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Agenda Item #30, Board File 221008: **Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees**

Dear Board President Peskin, and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

It was good hearing during the Rules Committee meeting on February 27 Committee Chair Matt Dorsey attempt to introduce proposed amendments to Supervisor Mandelman’s Motion at agenda item 30 — “*Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees.*”

After all, Line 1 on page 4 of Mandelman’s proposed Motion claims there are “*significant costs associated with allowing all members of the public to participate in Board meetings remotely ...*,” but there is no financial analysis posted on-line as a background information to Board File 221008. Moreover, the PowerPoint presentation Deputy City Administrator Jennifer Johnston posted on-line Monday morning — dated on the cover and in the metadata of the PDF file as having been created on February 27, 2023 — contains no financial analysis, which Johnston indicates may need re-evaluation. There doesn’t appear to be a BLA analysis of the associated costs, either.

I urge the full Board to Table Mandelman’s motion until such time as detailed, accurate costs of remote participation are obtained and made public.

But it was disturbing hearing Supervisors Walton and Safai indicate they wouldn’t support amendments. They didn’t even display the “collegial” courtesy of allowing Supervisor Dorsey to read or introduce his proposed amendments before they unilaterally shot down amendments they — and members of the public — weren’t even allowed to hear Dorsey read into the record for potential consideration. Why were Walton and Safai unwilling to even have the amendments read into the meeting record, and how could they oppose them if they hadn’t seen them in advance of the Rules Committee hearing on February 27?

I strongly urge Supervisor Dorsey to introduce his amendments at the full Board’s February 28 meeting to potentially consider maintaining the status quo on continuing remote public comment, and potentially, hybrid meetings.

And I urge the full Board of Supervisors to consider passing amendments Supervisor Dorsey may introduce to Mandelman’s motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw
Columnist,

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Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director to the Clerk of the Board