

1 [Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees]

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3 **Motion rescinding the Board of Supervisors’ (“Board”) March 17, 2020 motion**  
4 **authorizing teleconferencing; reflecting the intention of the Board to amend the**  
5 **Board’s Rules of Order to provide for remote public comment by all members of the**  
6 **public who wish to comment remotely at meetings of the Board and its committees;**  
7 **and establishing an interim rule to provide for remote public comment for all persons**  
8 **who wish to comment remotely, to remain in effect until the Board amends the Rules of**  
9 **Order to provide for remote public comment, or April 15, 2023, whichever occurs first.**

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11 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about enormous changes in the  
12 way that public bodies meet; and

13 WHEREAS, Prior to the pandemic, members of the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) and  
14 members of the public were required to participate in meetings of the Board and its  
15 committees (collectively, “Board meetings”) in person, except where federal or state law  
16 required the City to accommodate people with disabilities by providing an opportunity for  
17 remote participation in such meetings; and

18 WHEREAS, In March, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state  
19 of emergency in California in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

20 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco  
21 (the “City”) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020, the City’s Health Officer  
22 declared a local health emergency; and

23 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the Health Officer issued a Shelter-in-Place order, to  
24 be operational at midnight the following day; and

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1           WHEREAS, On March 17, 2020, just hours before the Health Officer’s Shelter-In-Place  
2 Order went into effect, the Board unanimously approved a motion to allow remote  
3 teleconferencing of future Board meetings and remote public comment; and

4           WHEREAS, As of March 2023, health conditions no longer impact the ability of most  
5 individuals to attend crowded public meetings in person; and

6           WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the improved health conditions that reduce the risks  
7 associated with in-person public comment, remote public comment has allowed for broader  
8 participation in the legislative process and has given voice to a diversity of perspectives from  
9 across the City; and;

10           WHEREAS, A Board rule that would authorize remote comment only for people with  
11 disabilities who require accommodation to participate in Board meetings would exclude the  
12 voices of other people who cannot attend Board meetings in person for any number of  
13 legitimate reasons, such as childcare or eldercare responsibilities, work schedules, lack of  
14 resources, or illness, and would force people with disabilities to identify as disabled where  
15 they may prefer not to do so; now, therefore, be it

16           MOVED, That the Board hereby rescinds its March 17, 2020 motion allowing remote  
17 teleconferencing of Board meetings and remote public comment; and, be it

18           FURTHER MOVED, That it is the intent of the Board to amend the Board’s Rules of  
19 Order to provide for remote comment by all members of the public who wish to comment  
20 remotely; and, be it

21           FURTHER MOVED, That until the Board amends the Rules of Order to provide for  
22 remote public comment, or April 15, 2023, whichever occurs first, the Board shall continue to  
23 offer opportunities to provide remote public comment to all members of the public who wish to  
24 comment remotely (“Interim Public Comment Policy”); and, be it

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1 FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is directed to prepare  
2 and introduce by no later than March 14, 2023 a motion to amend the Board's Rules of Order  
3 to provide opportunities for remote public comment to all members of the public who wish to  
4 comment remotely; and, be it

5 FURTHER MOVED, That if the Board of Supervisors does not amend the Rules of  
6 Order to supersede the Interim Public Comment Policy prior to April 15, 2023, resulting in the  
7 termination of the Interim Public Comment Policy, public comment shall be governed  
8 thereafter by the Rules of Order in effect as of March 7, 2023, and laws governing disability  
9 access.

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