

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

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3 **Motion amending the Board of Supervisors’ Rules of Order by creating a new Rule**
4 **1.3.3, In-Person and Remote Public Comment, and amending Rule 4.22, Public**
5 **Comment, to provide for remote comment opportunities by all members of the public**
6 **who wish to comment remotely.**

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8 WHEREAS, Since the onset of the COVID-19 health emergency in March 2020, the
9 Board of Supervisors (“Board”) has provided opportunities for members of the public to
10 provide comment remotely, in order to allow for social distancing and reduce health risks; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the improved health conditions that reduce the risks
14 associated with in-person public comment, the Board finds that remote public comment has
15 allowed for broader participation in the legislative process and has given voice to a diversity of
16 perspectives from across the City; and

17 WHEREAS, Eliminating remote public comment would likely reduce participation in
18 Board meetings by people who cannot attend such meetings in person for any number of
19 legitimate reasons, such as childcare or eldercare responsibilities, work schedules, lack of
20 resources, or illness; and

21 WHEREAS, On March 7, 2023, the Board enacted Motion No. M23-039, expressing
22 the Board’s intent to amend the Board’s Rules of Order to provide for remote comment by all
23 members of the public who wish to comment remotely, and directing the Clerk of the Board to
24 prepare and introduce by no later than March 14, 2023, a motion to amend the Board’s Rules

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1 of Order to provide opportunities for remote public comment to all members of the public who
2 wish to comment remotely; now, therefore, be it

3 MOVED, That the Board amends the Rules of Order of the Board of Supervisors to
4 create a new Rule 1.3.3 and to amend Rule 4.22, to read as follows:

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6 **1.3.3. In-Person and Remote Public Comment.**

7 Where opportunity for public comment is required under Rules 3.8 (Public Testimony in
8 Committee), 4.19 (Public Hearings on Appeals), and 4.22 (General Public Comment Before the Full
9 Board of Supervisors), members of the public shall be given the option to comment in-person or
10 remotely. For purposes of this Rules 1.3.3., “remotely” means telephonically or otherwise
11 electronically, as determined by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

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13 **4.22. Public Comment.** This is an opportunity for members of the public to directly
14 address the Board on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter
15 jurisdiction of the Board, including items being considered at this meeting which have not
16 been referred to committee, and excluding items which have been considered by a Board
17 committee. Members of the public may address the Board for up to three minutes. ~~The~~
18 ~~President or the Board may limit the total testimony to 30 minutes.~~ At the conclusion of public
19 comment, the Board may not lawfully take action to approve or disapprove a new proposal
20 which is not on the agenda, but may refer the proposal to a City official for review.

21 During public comment before the full Board, remarks shall be addressed to the Board
22 as a whole, not to individual Supervisors and not to the audience. Supervisors shall not enter
23 into debate or discussion with speakers during public comment. The President may request a
24 City official to investigate an issue raised and later report to a committee or to the Board.

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