

To: Commission on the Status of Women
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Subject: Resolution to make findings allowing continued remote meetings under Brown Act

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and set a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act. The original Executive Order provided that all provisions of the Brown Act that required the physical presence of members or other personnel as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting were waived for public health reasons. If these waivers fully sunsetted on October 1, 2021, legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act would have to contend with a sudden return to full compliance with in-person meeting requirements as they existed prior to March 2020, including the requirement for full physical public access to all teleconference locations from which board members were participating.

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that formalizes and modifies the teleconference procedures implemented by California public agencies in response to the Governor's Executive Orders addressing Brown Act compliance during shelter-in-place periods. AB 361 allows a local agency to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders when certain circumstances occur or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the local agency.

AB 361 also requires that, if the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, the agency must make findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. The findings are to the effect that the need for teleconferencing persists due to the nature of the ongoing public health emergency and the social distancing recommendations of local public health officials. Effectively, this means that local agencies must agendaize a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and to vote to continue relying upon the law's provision for teleconference procedures in lieu of in-person meetings.

AB 361 provides that Brown Act legislative bodies must return to in-person meetings on October 1, 2021, unless they choose to continue with fully teleconferenced meetings because a specific declaration of a state or local health emergency is appropriately made. AB 361 allows local governments to continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a gubernatorially-proclaimed public emergency in combination with (1) local health official recommendations for social distancing or (2) adopted findings that meeting in person would present risks to health. AB 361 is effective immediately as urgency legislation and will sunset on January 1, 2024.

Further, the Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined

DISCUSSION:

Because local rates of transmission of COVID-19 are still in the “substantial” tier as measured by the Centers for Disease Control, we recommend that the Commission on the Status of Women avail itself of the provisions of AB 361 allowing continuation of online meetings by adopting findings to the effect that conducting in-person meetings would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees. A resolution to that effect and directing staff to return each 30 days with the opportunity to renew such findings, is attached hereto.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION FINDING THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, MEETING IN PERSON FOR MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625, that a state of emergency exists with regard to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Governor clarified that the “reopening” of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder, and as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to California Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the “Brown Act”), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 that provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act provided the legislative

body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and,

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and,

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo currently has a Community Transmission metric of “substantial” which is the second most serious of the tiers; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission on the Status of Women has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in its meetings; and,

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Commission on the Status of Women deems it necessary to find that meeting in person would present imminent risks

to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing;

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The Commission on the Status of Women finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. Staff is directed to return no later than thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution with an item for the Commission on the Status of Women to consider making the findings required by AB 361 in order to continue meeting under its provisions.
4. Staff is directed to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 6:30-8:30pm

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

- a. **Commissioners Present:** Becky Abens, Nirmala Bandrapalli, Sue Datta, Anya Drabkin, Cheryl Fama, Ann Girard, Kelly Keele, Susan Kokores, Marguerite Machen, Karen Pyles, Ellen Tafeen, Maya Tussing, Penelope Stinson, Anisha Weber, Cate Warden, Candra Williams
Staff: Tanya Beat, Juda Tolmasoff
- b. **Absent:** Dana Linda, Christine Padilla, Melissa Lukin

3. Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Motion to approve by Nirmala Bandrapalli. Seconded by Becky Abens. Approved.

4. Public Comment

5. Approval and Adoption of Agenda (Action)

Motion to approve by Susan Kokores. Seconded by Anisha Weber. Approved.

6. Approval of September Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion to approve by Susan Kokores. Seconded by Anya Drabkin. Approved.

7. New Business

- **Redistricting Process** – presentation by Nirmala Bandrapalli. Please see meeting materials for presentation information. The considered maps will be assessed and decided up at the November 9th BOS meeting.
- **ACCW** – presentation by Margaret Fitzwilliam; the ACCW is a liaison organization between local commissions in CA and the State commission. They appreciate our participation with them.
- **Institutional Recognition** –
 - i. Propose to start a **Professional** recognition that elevates businesses, organizations who support women in San Mateo County (build prestige). This would be part of the Women’s Hall of Fame. Creation of the award that lists year by year the org who is recognized. They have it at their location for the time in between Hall of Fames.
 - ii. This would be in tandem with the individual nominations; have to create the assessment process; and outreach to get nominations.
 - iii. Next Steps: develop criteria and qualifications. We open this process to all commissioners and the Leadership Committee to join us.
 - iv. Goal is to bring a motion to the November 16 CSW meeting.

- **Youth Commission** – They will bring more information to the next meeting about the San Francisco Youth Commission resolution regarding sexual assault in San Francisco City/County
- **RISE 2022: Event Agenda & Women’s Hall of Fame**
 - i. Registration will remain with Eventbrite
 - ii. Whova - conference platform; you have to create an account to sign in and gain access.
 - iii. Attendee Profile – Tanya will send CSW an invitation code to create your account.
 - iv. Agenda: Large group plenaries, sessions, exhibit hall, networking sessions
 - v. Speaker info deadline Nov 10. Need that for the website launch in December.
 - vi. Send in suggestions (if you can provide contact info) to Tanya
 - vii. Women’s Hall of Fame: please outreach for nominations (due Jan 7)
 - viii. Young Women of Excellence: \$500 scholarship
 - ix. Hall of Fame is in-person on May 11.

8. Old Business

- **Director’s Report**
 - DKG/Beto Rho Chapter presentation, Nov 4 at 5:30pm. Any commissioners available to join me to co-present? Potentially Anisha Weber.
 - Officer nominations: Maya Tussing as President. Deadline Nov 4
 - EE presentation on Nov 4, 11:30am-1:00pm
 - SMC Transit District: community meetings on harassment on transit.
- **December Break**
 - Holiday informal gathering; send suggestions to Nirmala.

9. Adjournment

The **Commission on the Status of Women Group agree** to arrive on time/start on time; take turns speaking; speak loud enough for everyone to hear; be courteous of other opinions; listen to hear a different perspective than your own; mute phones; allow the chair to guide the process; Chair will check in about remaining time at 8:15 PM.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular or special meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to members of the Commission. Those public records are available online and for public inspection at the Human Resources Department located at 455 County Center, 5th floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 by appointment. The public records may also be transmitted electronically by emailing tbeat@smcgov.org or calling 650-363-4467. **IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days’ notice. Please call 650-363-4467 (voice) or email tbeat@smcgov.org to make such a request.

To: San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women

From: Cate Warden & Penelope Stinson, Youth Liaisons to Commission on the Status of Women

Date: November 2021

Subject: Youth Commissioner Updates

Update:

- Peer Court
 - The Restorative Justice Subcommittee is helping to develop peer court system of San Mateo County
 - Letter of Support of San Mateo County Peer Court
- Sexual Assault Resolution
 - Various committees are working on a sexual assault resolution similar to the San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution
- Declaration of Educational Equity
 - The Education and Economic Development subcommittee is working on a declaration for education equity including teacher sensitivity training, more books with leads of color, and mandatory student rights posters
- Immigrant Youth Scholarship
 - The Immigrant Youth Subcommittee is working on a scholarship for immigrants and first-generation youth, keep an eye out for that this Spring!
- Environmental Justice Subcommittee
 - The Youth Commission's Environmental Justice Subcommittee won the 2021 Green California Schools Leadership Award for their work in passing climate emergency declarations

Inaugural Economic Empowerment Organizational Award

General Rules

- Nominees for the Economic Empowerment Organizational Award must have
 - at least \$1 million and no more than \$35 million in Annual Receipts or Annual Operating Budget and/or
 - at least ten (10) full-time employees and no more than 1,500.
- This award is open to all organizations that are doing business in San Mateo County. This includes for-profit companies and non-for-profit organizations.
- Current San Mateo County (government?) departments and agencies are not eligible.
- Nominations may be submitted by individuals and organizations. Self-nominations will be accepted. Nominators may submit more than one nominee, including past nominees.
- The Commission's Nomination Form must be used (LINK). Additional information will not be considered. Tips for writing a compelling nomination may be found at (LINK).
- The selection panel is comprised of Bay Area residents.
- A representative of the organization must be present at the Hall of Fame Ceremony in order to receive this award.
- Nominees will be evaluated on program design, scope, track record and impact.

Qualities

- Demonstrated excellence in the support, design and implementation of programs aimed to promote the economic empowerment of women.
- Innovation and risk taking in the creation of opportunities for women to succeed in their economic goals.
- Awareness in all areas of the decision making process and the development of policies and procedures of the impact on women's economic success; including in the areas of: leadership, benefits, compensation, maternity leave, onsite child care, career development, procurement, financial education and flexible work schedules.

To: San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Date: November 16, 2021
Subject: Updates of upcoming events & opportunities

Elections

- Maya Tussing for President
- Susan Kokores for Vice President

Vacancy Filled

- Aileen Cassinetto, [San Mateo County Poet Laureate](#) is joining the CSW in January, 2022

Equity Presentation

- New Chief Equity Officer, Shireen Malekafzali
- Special Presentation for the CSW either on Tuesday, January 11 or Wednesday, January 12 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. 60-minute presentation only and open to the public.
- Additionally, Shireen is willing to moderate a discussion of keynote panelists specific to diversity, equity, & inclusion.
- Which dates for a majority of you? I will confirm with her if a majority of you are available (quorum).

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) [webpage & resources](#)

- Friday, November 19 from 5:00-6:30pm. Virtual Event with poetry, moderated panel.
- TDoR is commemorated every year on November 20. It started to memorialize transgender people who have been murdered because of who they are.
- In 2021, at least 48 individuals were killed in the United States. All but 6 were under the age of 40.
- This fatal violence disproportionately affects **transgender women of color** and the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other basic necessities that make them especially vulnerable.
- Friday's event is to help the community learn how to bridge good intention to action. Please register: <https://tinyurl.com/TDOR2021smc> or livestream via the Redwood City Public Library at: <https://youtu.be/3D-pl2twVdo>

RISE 2022 **WOMEN'S** **LEADERSHIP** **CONFERENCE**

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 23-24



TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19
5:00-6:30PM



Featuring Introduction by
Bishop Megan Rohrer

VIRTUAL EVENT

Join us for a virtual gathering to honor and hold space for mourning, reflection and healing for all the transgender lives we have lost in the US to murder. Our event will be held on Zoom and livestreamed on YouTube. Register via the link or QR code below.

*We invite community to submit poetry or spoken word to San Mateo County Poet Laureate Aileen Cassinetta for the closing of our event. smcpoetlaureate@smcl.org

Featuring



Anjali Rimi
Founder, Parivar Bay Area



Blossom Brown
Coach & Activist



Sera Fernando
Chief Diversity Officer, Silicon Valley Pride

With Poets



Dena Rod



Hilary Cruz Mejia

REGISTRATION:



<https://tinyurl.com/TDOR2021smc>

RESOURCES:

<https://lgbtq.smcgov.org/events/transgender-day-remembrance-2021>

SPONSORS



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
LGBTQ COMMISSION



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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