

To: LGBTQ Commission
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On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and set a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the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 LGBTQ Commission 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 LGBTQ COMMISSION 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 LGBTQ Commission 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 LGBTQ Commission 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 LGBTQ Commission 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 LGBTQ Commission 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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[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

October 2022 Updates

October updates:

- To read October updates from PFS and the Older Adults program, please click this link

<https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-oanewsletter-oct2022>

Pride Center Special News and Announcements!

- **Thank You, Men Chun Wong (he/him)**

Men Chun joined the Pride Center in 2018 as a training therapist. Throughout his time at the Pride Center, Men Chun has run therapy groups for AAPI Clinicians and service providers, supported LGBTQ+ Youth at a Redwood City middle school, served as Clinical Program Coordinator in addition to providing psychotherapy to individuals, families, and couples. He has decided to transition out of the Pride Center by the end of September to pursue private practice.

“I’ve learned so much from my time here at Pride and I’ve met so many amazing and truly wonderful people! The most meaningful thing I’ve learned while working with the community is that collaboration and partnership is essential in this work. I plan to use what I’ve learned in this next chapter of my career.”

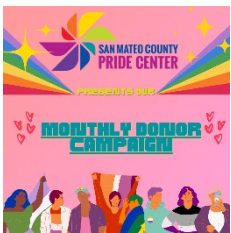
*Thank you for the impact you've made on our staff, collectively, individually and in community. We are endlessly grateful for your empathy, sense of humor and professionalism. We will miss you immensely and are excited to for your next chapter. *

- **SMC Pride Center’s Guide to Using Destigmatizing Language in Health Communication Messaging**

The Pride Center created a document to aid in messaging about M-pox that is factual and does not perpetuate stigma when communicating about transmittable infections. The Pride Center took the initiative to create [this document](#) in acknowledgement that the importance of keeping our communities safer is not exclusive to healthcare professionals but is shared by many of us as professionals and simply as humans. Our intentions are always to help in the best ways we know how to. If you have questions or need further support, the Pride Center is here for you, too.

- If you have questions or need further support, please contact Pride Center Program Director, Frankie Sapp (he/him) at francisco.sapp@sanmateopride.org.

- **Trans Talks: Nonsurgical Options for Gender-Affirming Care**
 - Date TBD
 - For more information, please click [this link](#)
 - Registration is required:
- **Please Click [this link](#) to Read our Statement on Monkeypox.**
 - Limited number of vaccines now available in San Mateo County. The Pride Center Statement includes links to resources available within the county and surrounding areas. Feel free to contact Frankie Sapp or reach out to the resources provided for more information.
- **Pride Center is Closed Until Further Notice**
 - It is with saddened hearts we share on Friday, August 26, 2022, the Pride Center was flooded throughout some of our inner offices and into our main room. Until all repairs are made, the center is officially off limits until it's safe to return onsite. Repairs should begin within the next few weeks, but it will take time to unpack and get ready to resume and prepare for our hybrid reopening.
 - Thank you for your patience, understanding, and compassion at the time. This news impacts us all. As a community we know what's most important is our commitment to keeping our people safe remains our highest priority. Although the physical space was damaged, the damage was minimal, and our team is unharmed and strong.
- **The Gift that Keeps on Giving!**



Are you able to become a regular financial supporter of the Pride community services? Your donation could provide gender affirming garments, help sponsor therapeutic services, cover legal name change fees, and otherwise help overcome financial barriers for LGBTQ+ community members in need. To start your tax-deductible monthly donation to the Pride Center, click [this link](#). For questions or more information, contact Frankie Sapp (he/him) at francisco.sapp@sanmateopride.org.

Pride Center Special Event!

- **Kamayan and the Identities that Feed Us- October 19th from 6:30-8pm PST via Zoom**
 - In honor of Filipinx American History Month, the Pride Center and the College of San Mateo invite you to join our multicultural, food-centered intergenerational virtual event on Wednesday October 19th from 6:30-8pm PST. Honoring the intersection of community, culture, and safety and paired with National Coming Out Day, “Kamayan and the Identities That Feed Us” is an event where the community can share experiences of invisibility.
 - Join Megan Bueno, Alumna of the College of San Mateo, and Krystle Cansino, LGBTQ Commissioner, as they celebrate the significance of LGBTQ identities and how they intersect with Filipinx Cultural roots. Then, stick around for a live lumpia making demonstration by our very own, Program Director, Frankie Sapp! *You will receive ingredients to buy ahead of time should you want to participate and learn while you roll!* This is an opportunity for those within these communities to share our wisdom and unite with allies and advancing conversations about the identities that feed us.
 - **Register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/Kamayanan2022>.** Stay tuned for more information to come!

- Interested in supporting local Filipinx owned shops in the Bay Area? Visit [HERE](#) to learn more about businesses near you!
- **Peer Support Groups- October Schedule and Updates**
 - LGBTQ Parent Group- October 4th from 7:30-8:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-parentsgroup>
 - LGBTQ Book Club (18+) - October 5th from 4:30-6pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-bookclub>
 - Polyamory Peer Power (18+)- October 5th from 7-8:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-polyampower>
 - Gay Men's Group (18+)- October 25th from 6-7pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCPC-gaymensgroup>
 - Queer Women's Social Group (18+)- October 28th from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-queerwomensgroup>
 - Peer Group Updates
 - In preparation for the holiday season, the Gay Men's group will be meeting Tuesday November 15th and Tuesday December 13th

To: LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Date: October 4, 2022
Subject: Status of recent events/projects

Commission Vacancies

- Great applications submitted. Interviews happening at the end of October. New commissioners may join us in November but definitely in December.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

- Re-branding to TransAction Day of Change. Purpose is to honor those who have died and provide opportunity to create change and build a more inclusive County for transgender and non-binary individuals.
- Past years' audience tended to be allies. We wanted to provide information and ways to create inclusion and support.
- Three Activities:
 - November 2, 9:30am. County Center in Redwood City
 - IN-PERSON Resource Tables, Action Wall, Reading of the Names, Candlelight Vigil at Redwood City Courthouse Square on **Friday, November 18 from 3:00-7:00pm.**
 - VIRTUAL Panel on Gender Affirming Services featuring individuals with lived experience and service advocates. Early December (tbd).
- Next Planning Meeting is Tuesday, October 11 from 5-6pm. Commissioners are invited to participate: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/9725932550>

New Commission Day and/or Time

- Start of a discussion in November
- New Commissioners need to participate. Action taken in December.

To: San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission
From: Chloe Chan
Date: 9/28/22
Subject: Introduction, Youth Commission Updates

Introduction

My name is Chloe Chan, and I am excited to be serving as a liaison between the LGBTQ Commission and the Youth Commission this year. I am a high school senior at Crystal Springs Uplands School, and have lived in San Mateo County, specifically Foster city, my whole life. I joined the Youth Commission this year because of my desire to make an impact on our local community. As a young adult, I feel that students being given the opportunity to truly enact change in their surrounding environment is rare. As I have lived in the County my whole life, I feel that my connection with the community, culture, and people is deep, making the issues that arise in our community personal to me as I feel a dedication and commitment to those around me.

I am particularly passionate about transgender youth advocacy. As a volunteer at the San Francisco Taimon Booton Navigation Center, the first transitional housing shelter in the world to specifically serve transgender and gender non-conforming youth, I have seen the results of the unjust treatment of this marginalized population even in San Francisco, a city known for its acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community. My interest in this work first began when my cousin, Rebecca, transitioned to Beck. His transition was hard on my Christian family, especially on our grandma. This exclusion, especially by people that I love, inspired me to begin researching transgender youth issues in our local community today. The Youth Commission has already provided remarkable opportunities for immigrant youth, and as a liaison between the LGBTQ Commission and the Youth Commission, I hope to further include LGBTQ+ youth into the conversation.

Outside of school, I have engaged in research under professors at UCSF involving healthcare disparities in sexual minorities titled: "HPV Vaccination Over Time in Heterosexual and Sexual Minority Adults in the US" in an attempt to underscore unmet needs in LGBTQ individuals. However, after studying this, I still feel as if I have not physically enacted change for these groups. As a liaison, I am eager to implement tangible changes for this marginalized population in the local San Mateo County.

Update:

- Environmental Justice Committee
 - Within the Youth Commission, I am the vice chair of the Environmental Justice committee. The committee has met multiple times, online and in person. This year, we are continuing to spread the [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) to 6 local County

High School Districts. We also hope to collaborate with the Office of Education on the Environmental Youth Leadership Network, in which we will plan the annual Environmental Youth Summit and create our own symposium for local youth who are interested in learning from guest speakers, discovering outreach opportunities, and connecting with other youth with similar interests. Finally, we will create further solidarity between large Environmental Justice organizations and the Youth Commission. These include but are not limited to the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and California Environmental Justice Alliance.

Update:

- Other Youth Commission Committees
 - As of now, most other committees are finishing their work plans, which we will present at the next Youth Commission meeting on October 13th. I look forward to reporting out our larger goals for the next LGBTQ Commission meeting in a write-up.

Thank you for granting me the honor of this position, I look forward to working with everyone in the near future.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

In California we believe in equality and acceptance. We believe that no one should be prosecuted or persecuted for getting the care they need – including gender-affirming care. Parents know what's best for their kids, and they should be able to make decisions around the health of their children without fear. We must take a stand for parental choice. That is precisely why I am signing Senate Bill 107.

States across the country are passing laws to demonize the transgender community, especially transgender youth and their parents. I cannot put it better than Governor Spencer Cox of Utah - "rarely has so much fear and anger been directed at so few." The hate demonstrated by these laws is unfathomable and has contributed to soaring suicide rates. 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves, and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This is unacceptable – we must fight for our youth and their parents.

With the signing of this bill, California will ensure these kids and their families can seek and obtain the medical and mental health care they need.

Sincerely,


Gavin Newsom



Agenda # _____

Commissioners Craig Wiesner, Krystle Cansino and Dana Johnson

Over the years our Commission has batted around the idea of creating a sticker we could give away to communicate inclusion / welcome / safety and this year, the folks planning the TransAction Day of Change (which in the past has been the Transgender Day of Remembrance), also talked about having an "inclusion" type of sticker that could be given out. Tanya met with Krystle, Dana and Craig on Wednesday to talk about this idea and we decided that it would be great for our Commission to brainstorm ideas for a sticker. Based on those ideas we would pull together some design options and do a small print run for the event. During our Commission meeting Craig will lead in brainstorming us with these questions which we're getting to you now so that, if you wish and have time, you can think about before we meet. Beyond this brainstorming, commission members would not have to do any other work on this idea, other than, if they wish, comment on design options that would be put online. Krystle, Craig and Tanya will do the rest. Please be prepared to discuss the answers to the following questions:

1. Is this something you support us doing? (If no, brainstorming is done)
2. What words would you like to be communicated, either in actual words or graphically by this sticker.
3. Should the words "San Mateo County" be included?
4. What artistic elements would you like to see included in the design (rainbows, equal signs, silhouettes, etc...)
5. What should we absolutely positively avoid doing with the design (NO unicorns, for example, unless you love unicorns)

Here are some examples of art others have already done to help get your creative ideas flowing:



GSA poster ideas

