



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: December 21, 2021 Meeting date: January 10, 2022

Subject: Consideration of the Resumption of In-Person Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Receive an update on the current State and County public health regulations; and 2) Consider options for the resumption of in-person public meetings and give direction to staff as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this recommended action. Depending on what direction Council provides on the resumption of in-person meetings, additional funding may be necessary to fund staff overtime costs needed to facilitate public meetings in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 that was not previously included in the Adopted Budget.

WORK PLAN: This item was included as item 1a in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

DISCUSSION: The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) continues to track COVID-19 cases, including those resulting from variants of the virus. While the Delta variant remains the dominant variant detected among Los Angeles County residents, the Omicron variant has recently emerged as a “variant of concern” and is being closely monitored. As of December 21, the County has reported 102 cases of COVID-19 with mutations consistent with the new Omicron variant. More studies are needed to determine whether the Omicron variant is more contagious, more deadly, or more resistant to current COVID-19 vaccines and treatments than other COVID-19 strains.

As of December 21, the total number of deaths in Los Angeles County is 27,473, and LADPH has identified a total 1,570,230 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of the County. Testing results are available for more than 9,800,000 estimated individuals,

with 15% of people testing positive. Residents are reminded that they are still legally required to self-isolate if they have a positive COVID test result, and that vaccinated close contacts with symptoms and unvaccinated close contacts need to be quarantined.

The Los Angeles County Health Officer Order issued on September 28, 2021 requires all people ages two years and older, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a face mask in all indoor public settings to prevent transmission of the virus. Following a 47% increase in the case rate since Thanksgiving, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that masks will be required to be worn in all indoor public settings statewide, irrespective of vaccine status, beginning December 15. The mandate will remain in effect through January 15, 2022, at which point California will make further recommendations, as needed, in response to the pandemic.

The Council may still wish to consider resuming in-person or hybrid meetings (available in-person and virtually). In making that determination, the following must be considered:

- Masks – All those in attendance at in-person meetings, regardless of vaccination status and including Councilmembers, staff, and members of the public, will be required to wear a mask at all times while in City Hall in compliance with County and State Health Officer Orders.
- Noticing – One month’s public noticing of the change back to in-person meetings is required. If direction is given at the January 10 meeting, the earliest possible in-person meeting would be February 14.
- Hybrid Meetings – If the Council wants to have hybrid meetings, the City Clerk would bring back a report outlining the plan for how hybrid meetings would operate. If that report was presented at the February 14 meeting, the first hybrid meeting could be held on February 28, unless Council proposes significant changes to the plan. It is important to note that hybrid meetings would require additional staffing for running both the in-person meeting and monitoring the virtual meeting using Zoom and PrimeGov.
- Council Chambers preparation – Approximately two to three weeks are needed to get the cameras and lighting system in the Council Chambers serviced.

If the Council chooses to hold in-person or hybrid meetings, it is recommended that only the Planning Commission be authorized to hold its meetings in the same manner, and other Commissions and Committees continue to conduct all meetings virtually.

ATTACHMENTS: None.