



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: April 18, 2022 Meeting date: April 25, 2022

Subject: In-Person Meetings (Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein, either reaffirm or reverse the Council's action at its Regular meeting on March 28, 2022 to resume in-person City Council, Commission, Committee and Board meetings starting May 9, 2022 and provide direction to staff as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with 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: At its Regular meeting on March 28, 2022, the Council voted to resume in-person City Council meetings starting May 9, 2022. The Council provided further direction that the City's Commissions, Committees, and Boards would return to in-person meetings at their next Regular meeting after May 9, 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein notified staff that he was receiving communications from residents pushing back against the return to in-person meetings. In addition, he expressed concern about the increase of the Omicron subvariant BA.2 in Los Angeles County, which the County reports parallels trends throughout the United States and in Europe. The County reports that this variant is known to be more highly contagious than other variants, though it does not appear to be more severe. County residents are urged to be prepared to mitigate the risk of increased transmission associated with this more

infectious subvariant, particularly by increasing vaccination and booster coverage. Use of high-quality medical grade masks continues to be strongly recommended when in indoor public settings.

For these reasons, Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein is requesting the Council reconsider its decision to return to in-person meetings. The Council may choose to either reaffirm its decision of March 28 or direct staff to continue with virtual meetings until further notice.

As staff explained at the March 28 meeting, public noticing requirements will be affected by any changes to the Council's previous decision. Public hearings must be noticed in the local adjudicated newspaper a certain number of days in advance of the hearing, depending on the type of item, and must include the location of the meeting so the public will know how to participate. If the Council reverses its March 28 decision, the following items will be directly affected and will have to be rescheduled:

- City Council – two appeals
- Planning Commission – three projects and the Dark Sky amendment for May 16

Should Council decide to revert back to virtual meetings, the City's Commissions, Committees, Boards, and Task Forces should also be directed to resume virtual meetings until further notice.

ATTACHMENTS: None.