

**RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED  
MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION  
54953(e)**

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 54953(e) empowers local policy bodies to convene by teleconferencing technology during a proclaimed state of emergency under the State Emergency Services Act so long as certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, In March, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in California in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic, and that state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020, the City’s Health Officer declared a local health emergency, and both those declarations also remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, On March 11 and March 23, 2020, the Mayor issued emergency orders suspending select provisions of local law, including sections of the City Charter, that restrict teleconferencing by members of policy bodies; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2020, the Mayor issued an emergency order that, with limited exceptions, prohibited policy bodies other than the Board of Supervisors and its committees from meeting in person under any circumstances, so as to ensure the safety of policy body members, City staff, and the public; and the Mayor updated that order on December 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2022, the Mayor issued an emergency order requiring certain City boards and commissions to hold meetings in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, but the Mayor’s order continued to prohibit all other policy bodies, including Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group, from meeting in person, with limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amended the Brown Act to allow local policy bodies to continue to meet by teleconferencing during a state of emergency without complying with restrictions in State law that would otherwise apply, provided that the policy bodies make certain findings at least once every 30 days; and

WHEREAS, While federal, State, and local health officials emphasize the critical importance of vaccination (including a booster once eligible) and consistent mask-wearing, regardless of vaccination status, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City's Health Officer has issued at least one order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, available online at [www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders)) and one directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-33i, available online at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)) that continue to recommend measures to promote safety for indoor gatherings, including vaccination, masking, improved ventilation, and other measures, in certain contexts; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health ("Cal/OSHA") has promulgated Section 3205 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires most employers in California, including in the City, to train and instruct employees about measures that can decrease the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Without limiting any requirements under applicable federal, state, or local pandemic-related rules, orders, or directives, the City's Department of Public Health, in coordination with the City's Health Officer, has advised that for group gatherings indoors, such as meetings of boards and commissions, people can increase safety and greatly reduce risks to the health and safety of attendees from COVID-19 by maximizing ventilation, wearing well-fitting masks regardless of vaccination status (and as required for unvaccinated people by the State of California's indoor masking order), encouraging vaccination (including a booster as soon as eligible), staying home when sick or when experiencing any COVID-19 symptom, discouraging consumption of food or beverages in the meeting, following good hand hygiene practices, and making informed choices when gathering with people whose vaccination status is not known; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group has met remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic and can continue to do so in a manner that allows public participation and transparency while minimizing health risks to members, staff, and the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group finds as follows:

1. As described above, the State of California and the City remain in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this meeting, Mental Health

SF Implementation Working Group has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

2. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body and its Discussion Groups in person would present imminent risks to the safety of attendees, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for at least the next 30 days, unless the Mayor issues an earlier order authorizing in-person meetings, all meetings of Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group and its Discussion Groups will continue to occur exclusively by teleconferencing technology (and not by any in-person meetings or any other meetings with public access to the places where any policy body member is present for the meeting). Such meetings of Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group and its Discussion Groups that occur by teleconferencing technology will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address this body and its Discussion Groups and will otherwise occur in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of parties and the members of the public attending the meeting via teleconferencing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Planning Team of Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group within the next 30 days. If Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group does not meet within the next 30 days, the City Planning Team is directed to place a such resolution on the agenda of the next meeting of Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group.