

ORDINANCE NO. 20200326-087

AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY WAIVING SECTION 2-1-6(E) OF CITY CODE REGARDING MEETINGS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. On March 6, 2020, Mayor Steve Adler issued a Declaration of Local Disaster to allow the City of Austin to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Austin residents, and on March 12, 2020, City Council passed Resolution 20200312-074 ratifying the Declaration of Local Disaster and consenting to its continuation indefinitely or until such time as it is terminated by order of the Council.

PART 2. On March 16, 2020, Governor Abbott granted the Office of the Attorney General's request for suspension of certain open-meeting statutes. This temporary suspension allows for telephonic or videoconference meetings of governmental bodies that are accessible to the public in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble large groups of people.

PART 3. City Code Section 2-1-6(E) provides that all members of a board or a commission necessary to provide a quorum must be physically present at a meeting to conduct business.

PART 4. In keeping with the Mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster and the Governor's suspension of certain open-meeting statutes, and in order to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Austin residents and board and commission members, the Council waives the requirements of City Code Section 2-1-6(E) to allow boards and commission members to meet via telephonic or videoconference until such time Council terminates the Declaration of Local Disaster.

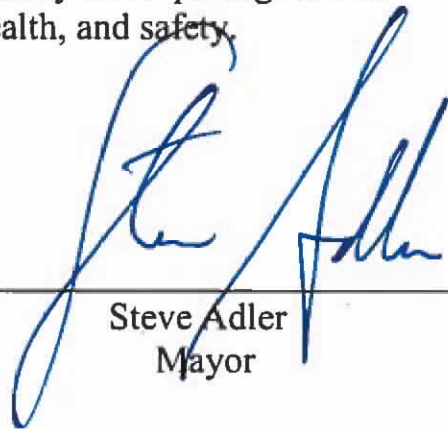
PART 5. The Council finds that the need to allow meetings of boards and commissions to proceed safely constitutes an emergency. Because of this

emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

March 26, 2020

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: *Anne L. Morgan*
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: *Jannette S. Goodall*
Richard Thomas
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk