

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, in order to help governmental entities address the health risks of COVID-19, Governor Abbott suspended certain sections of the Open Meetings Act, allowing governing bodies to conduct their meetings entirely virtually; this suspension ended in September 2021; and

WHEREAS, starting in March 2020 City Council meeting testimony was conducted via telephone; and

WHEREAS, offering a phone option for speakers allows for more equitable and accessible opportunities for participation at City Council meetings, Board and Commission meetings, and Subcommittee meetings; and

WHEREAS, the virtual meetings, with a remote option for speakers, have required significant staff time and resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk issued two memos on September 10, 2021, that outlined the resources needed to continue with virtual options for Council meetings, Boards and Commission meetings, and Subcommittee meetings; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

25 The City Manager is directed to bring a budget amendment to Council by
26 November 4, 2021 for the required resources, which may include those outlined in
27 the September 10, 2021 memos from the City Clerk, to accommodate the resources
28 and staff needed to continue virtual testimony and hybrid participation of Council
29 Members, Board and Commission Members, and Subcommittee members.

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

31 The City Clerk is directed to bring any necessary Code Amendments to
32 Chapter 2-1 by November 4, 2021 that help allow for hybrid participation at
33 meetings of Boards and Commissions and their Subcommittees, including waiving
34 requirements that a quorum must be physically present at a meeting to conduct
35 business; the Open Meetings Act shall still apply to Boards and Commissions and
36 to their Subcommittees.

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38 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

39 Jannette S. Goodall
40 City Clerk
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