CITY OF LONG BEACH

Office of the City Clerk
411 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 570-6101

36

June 16, 2026

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to adopt resolution establishing a policy addressing disruptions to telephonic and internet service during City Council meetings.

DISCUSSION

On October 3, 2025, Senate Bill (SB) 707 was signed into law, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act to expand public access to local government meetings. Among other requirements, SB 707 requires eligible legislative bodies to provide members of the public with the opportunity to attend open and public meetings remotely through a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform.

To further ensure public access and participation, SB 707 requires eligible legislative bodies to adopt, on or before July 1, 2026, a policy establishing procedures for responding to disruptions in telephonic or internet service that prevent members of the public from participating remotely in meetings.

The Long Beach City Council is an eligible legislative body subject to the requirements of SB 707. Accordingly, the attached resolution establishes a policy governing the City's response to disruptions affecting remote public participation during City Council meetings.

Under the proposed policy, if a disruption prevents members of the public from attending, observing, or providing comment in real time, the City Council must recess open session for at least one hour, or until service is restored. Upon reconvening, if service is not restored, the City Council may proceed only after a roll call vote on the record that good faith efforts were made to restore access and that continuing the meeting outweighs the interest in remote public access.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on June 16, 2026, to adopt the required policy and ensure compliance with SB 707 by July 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Monique De La Garza
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH TO ADOPT A POLICY ON THE DISRUPTION OF TELEPHONIC OR INTERNET SERVICE DURING MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 707 amended the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code § 54950 *et. seq*) to require, among other things, that all open and public meetings of eligible legislative bodies, as defined, include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform;

WHEREAS, SB 707 requires eligible legislative bodies to adopt, on or before July 1, 2026, a policy addressing how eligible legislative bodies will respond to disruptions in telephonic or internet service that prevent members of the public from participating remotely;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Long Beach is an eligible legislative body as defined by SB 707;

WHEREAS, this policy establishes procedures for responding to a disruption in the telephonic or internet services that provide two-way remote public access to meetings of the City Council of the City of Long Beach, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54953.4(b)(1)(A));

WHEREAS, this policy ensures transparency, public participation, and the continuation of meetings during technological disruptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

Section 1. The Recitals of this Resolution are true and correct and are

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
DAWN MCINTOSH, City Attorney
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

hereby incorporated by reference herein as though set forth in full.

Section 2. City Council hereby adopts and approves the policy entitled "City Council Disruption of Telephonic or Internet Service During Public Meetings Policy" that establishes procedures for responding to a disruption in the telephonic or internet services that provide two-way remote public access to meetings of the City Council of the City of Long Beach, set forth in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated by this reference.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

_____

_____

_____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

_____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

_____

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: _____

_____

_____

City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
DAWN MCINTOSH, City Attorney
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

EXHIBIT A

CITY COUNCIL DISRUPTION OF TELEPHONIC OR INTERNET SERVICE DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS POLICY

I. BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 707 (2025) amended the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54950 *et. seq*) to require eligible legislative bodies to adopt, on or before July 1, 2026, a policy addressing how the agency will respond to disruptions in telephonic or internet service that prevent members of the public from attending or observing a meeting remotely. This policy is adopted to comply with that requirement and to ensure continuity of public participation during technical disruptions.

II. PURPOSE

This policy establishes procedures for responding to a disruption in the telephonic or internet services that provide two-way remote public access to meetings of the City Council of the City of Long Beach, as required by Government Code section 54953.4. The policy ensures transparency, public participation, and continuity of government during technology disruptions.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy:

- “Service Disruption” means any failure, outage, or other interruption that prevents members of the public from participating in a City Council meeting via Remote Access Services.

- “Remote Access Services” means the two-way telephonic service and/or two-way audiovisual platform used to provide real-time remote public attendance and observation of City Council meetings.

- “Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic service.

- “Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

IV. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all open and public meetings of the City Council of the City of Long Beach at which remote public participation is offered or required under the Brown Act. Consistent with the Brown Act, this policy shall not apply to the following meetings:

- Meetings held to attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the City is a party.

- Meetings held to inspect real or personal property provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or personal property.

- Meetings held to meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States or the State of California, solely to discuss a legislative or regulatory issue affecting the City and over which the federal or state officials have jurisdiction.

- Meetings held to meet in or nearby a facility owned by the City, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the facility.

- Meetings held in an emergency situation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.5.

V. PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A SERVICE DISRUPTION

Response to Service Disruption:

If the Mayor, or presiding officer, or City Clerk becomes aware of a Service Disruption to the City's Remote Access Services that prevents members of the public from attending or observing the meeting remotely:

1. The Mayor, or presiding officer, or City Clerk shall immediately announce the Service Disruption to the public.

2. The Mayor, or presiding officer, may then call for a recess of the open session or convene the City Council in closed session, consistent with the Brown Act.

3. During the recess, City staff shall make good faith efforts to diagnose and restore the disrupted service.

4. The meeting shall remain in recess for one hour or until service is restored, whichever is sooner.

Efforts to Restore Remote Access Services

The City shall make good faith efforts to restore Remote Access Services, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Troubleshooting platform or teleconferencing software

- Resetting or replacing audiovisual equipment

- Attempting alternative connection methods

- Contacting necessary support staff or service providers

- Switching to back-up equipment or platforms, if available

The City Clerk shall document the restoration efforts undertaken.

VI. RECONVENING THE OPEN SESSION

After the expiration of the hour, if Remote Access Services have not been restored, the City Council shall reconvene and the Mayor, or presiding officer, or City Clerk shall report on the status of staff's efforts to restore Remote Access Services. The City Council, shall then either:

1. Adjourn the meeting pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code Section 2.03.020.D;

2. Extend the recess to allow staff more time to make a good faith effort to restore Remote Access Services; or

3. Adopt, by roll call vote, the following, or a substantially similar finding, that:

   "The City has made good faith efforts to restore telephonic or internet service in accordance with its adopted policy, and the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access."

   Upon adoption of the finding, the City Council may continue the open session despite the fact that Remote Access Services have not been restored.

VII. RECORDKEEPING

The City Clerk shall enter a brief statement into the meeting minutes, which shall including the following:

- The nature and time of the Service Disruption;

- The restoration efforts undertaken;

- The time the meeting was reconvened (if applicable); and

- Any finding adopted pursuant to Section VI of this policy.

VIII. REVIEW AND UPDATES

This policy may be amended by the City Council at a noticed public meeting in open session, not on the consent calendar.