



Date: June 11, 2021

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Joe Ambrosini, Director of Human Resources 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Council Chamber Re-Opening – Protocols for June 15 Council Meeting

On Friday, May 28th the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidelines detailing the process for the statewide reopening on June 15, 2021. Specifically, CDPH provided that all sectors (with limited exceptions) may return to normal business operations based on the specified public health recommendations contained in their memo.

In alignment with the State's reopening, the City has been preparing to repopulate City facilities through a phased-in approach. The City has recently received details of the State guidelines, in which we have relayed these new requirements to all our labor partners. The Labor Relations team is working diligently to complete the meet and confer process in accordance with our obligation to address working conditions.

Council Chambers Re-Opening

Council Chambers will re-open to all user departments, including all Boards, Commissions, and Committees (limited staff and elected or appointed officials only) to attend meetings in-person beginning June 15, 2021 under the existing COVID-19 safety protocols. This meeting will serve as the first meeting back in person for Councilmembers as they transition back to in person meetings. Access to the public will not be available on June 15, 2021, but plans are in place for subsequent Council meetings to be open for in person public attendance, tentatively scheduled for July 6, pending conclusion of meet and confer requirements and finalization of State OSHA requirements. Further details will be communicated in the coming weeks for the specific date and applicable safety protocols when the public returns to meetings in person.

Applicable safety precautions for the June 15th City Council meeting include:

- **Masks:** All persons will be required to wear masks (unless eating/drinking) and where social distancing is not feasible regardless of vaccination status in order to efficiently manage any potential risks to employee/public safety.
 - Staff and elected or appointed officials will be required to always wear masks in the Council Chambers until further notice (i.e., implementation of State guidelines).
- **Social Distancing:** All persons will be required to maintain social distancing whenever feasible to further prevent any potential virus transmission.

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- Staff and elected and appointed officials will continue to have access to the City Council Lounge.
- Some chamber audience seats will continue to be blocked to maintain social distancing for staff in attendance.
- **Plexi Glass:** Separations will be installed for fixed workstations where social distancing is not feasible, per State requirements.
 - Plexi Glass between Councilmember seats on the dais will be maintained.
- **Cleaning/Disinfecting:** All employees will be asked to maintain their work areas and disinfect periodically as needed. Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will continue to be provided to employees for this purpose.

We will continue to monitor public health guidance to ensure employee safety protocols are maximized to the highest extent possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Labor Relations and Benefits Administration Manager Dana Anderson at (562) 570-6254 or via email at dana.anderson@longbeach.gov.

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