

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST COMMISSION OF VENTURA COUNTY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION FOR A 30-DAY PERIOD PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, SUBDIVISION (e), OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

WHEREAS, the Children and Families First Commission of Ventura County (“Commission”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Commission;

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), of the Brown Act, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use remote teleconferencing in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions;

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558;

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing;

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in Ventura County, specifically, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 4, 2020 (“State of Emergency”);

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2021, Dr. Robert Levin, Ventura County Health Officer, issued a recommendation to continue practicing social distancing measures throughout Ventura County communities, including to continue to implement 100 percent remote meetings of all legislative bodies in Ventura County, to prevent and minimize the spread of COVID-19 (“Recommendation to Promote Social Distancing”);

WHEREAS, the Commission does hereby find that it has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency, the State of Emergency remains active and continues to directly impact the ability of its members and attendees to meet safely in person, and that the Ventura County Health Officer, Dr. Robert Levin, continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing to minimize the spread of COVID-19 including that all legislative bodies in Ventura County continue to meet remotely, as further explained in his Recommendation to Promote Social Distancing, which has not been rescinded and remains in effect;

WHEREAS, the Commission does hereby find that it shall conduct its meetings

without compliance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3), as authorized by subdivision (e), of Government Code section 54953, and that the Commission shall comply with the requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(2); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commission as follows:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. Staff supporting the Commission are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including conducting open and public meetings of the Commission in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) January 15, 2022 or such time the Commission adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(3), to extend the time during which the Commission may continue to teleconference without compliance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3).

Upon motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and duly carried, the Commission hereby adopts this resolution on _____ day of _____, 2021.

Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Chair
Children and Families First Commission
of Ventura County