

To: LGBTQ Commission
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Subject: Resolution to make findings allowing continued remote meetings under Brown Act

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and set a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act. The original Executive Order provided that all provisions of the Brown Act that required the physical presence of members or other personnel as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting were waived for public health reasons. If these waivers fully sunsetted on October 1, 2021, legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act would have to contend with a sudden return to full compliance with in-person meeting requirements as they existed prior to March 2020, including the requirement for full physical public access to all teleconference locations from which board members were participating.

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that formalizes and modifies the teleconference procedures implemented by California public agencies in response to the Governor's Executive Orders addressing Brown Act compliance during shelter-in-place periods. AB 361 allows a local agency to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders when certain circumstances occur or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the local agency.

AB 361 also requires that, if the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, the agency must make findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. The findings are to the effect that the need for teleconferencing persists due to the nature of the ongoing public health emergency and the social distancing recommendations of local public health officials. Effectively, this means that local agencies must agendaize a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and to vote to continue relying upon the law's provision for teleconference procedures in lieu of in-person meetings.

AB 361 provides that Brown Act legislative bodies must return to in-person meetings on October 1, 2021, unless they choose to continue with fully teleconferenced meetings because a specific declaration of a state or local health emergency is appropriately made. AB 361 allows local governments to continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a gubernatorially-proclaimed public emergency in combination with (1) local health official recommendations for social distancing or (2) adopted findings that meeting in person would present risks to health. AB 361 is effective immediately as urgency legislation and will sunset on January 1, 2024.

Further, the Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined

DISCUSSION:

Because local rates of transmission of COVID-19 are still in the “substantial” tier as measured by the Centers for Disease Control, we recommend that the LGBTQ Commission avail itself of the provisions of AB 361 allowing continuation of online meetings by adopting findings to the effect that conducting in-person meetings would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees. A resolution to that effect, and directing staff to return each 30 days with the opportunity to renew such findings, is attached hereto.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION FINDING THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, MEETING IN PERSON FOR MEETINGS OF THE LGBTQ COMMISSION WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed pursuant to his authority under the California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code section 8625, that a state of emergency exists with regard to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, the Governor clarified that the “reopening” of California on June 15, 2021 did not include any change to the proclaimed state of emergency or the powers exercised thereunder, and as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to California Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution in the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950 et seq. (the “Brown Act”), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 that provides that a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without fully complying with the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act provided the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or

safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and,

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and,

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo currently has a Community Transmission metric of “substantial” which is the second most serious of the tiers; and,

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ Commission has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in its meetings; and,

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the LGBTQ Commission deems it necessary to find that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing;

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all legislative bodies of the County of San Mateo that are subject to the Brown Act, including but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Assessment Appeals Board, the Civil Service Commission, and all other oversight and advisory boards, committees and commissions established by the Board of Supervisors and subject to the Brown Act, to make a similar finding and avail themselves of teleconferencing until the risk of community transmission has further declined;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The LGBTQ Commission finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. Staff is directed to return no later than thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution with an item for the LGBTQ Commission to consider making the findings required by AB 361 in order to continue meeting under its provisions.
4. Staff is directed to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

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[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

January 2023 Updates

Special Announcements:

- **We are hiring!**

Come be a part of the Pride Center team! We are currently hiring for two positions. Both positions will be hybrid (part remote/part in person) and come with a benefits package. To find out more, click the link below or contact, Program Director, Frankie Sapp (he/him) at

francisco.sapp@sanmateopride.org.

- Job postings: <https://sanmateopride.org/job-openings/>
 - Peer Group & Volunteer Coordinator
 - Clinical Program Coordinator

- **To read our Older Adult eblast & general Pride Center newsletters, please click the following links:**

- Link to Older Adult (OA) eblast: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-oanewsletter-jan2023>
- Link to general newsletter- <https://tinyurl.com/smcpcnewsletter-jan23>
- If you are interested in signing up to be on our mailing list, please click this link: <https://sanmateopride.org/newsletter/>

Pride Center Special Events!

- **Palentine's at the Parks!- San Bruno Mountain History Tour Reboot**

Due to popular demand, we are rehosting our historical hike and community gathering for Saturday, February 25. Please save the date while you can since spots fill up fast. More information will follow but if you can't wait (and we can't blame you), please contact Azisa Todd at azisa.todd@sanmateopride.org and Adriana Arriaga at adriana@supportparks.org for any questions or concerns regarding the event.

- **Accessibility Information:** The history tour will be on the Saddle Loop trail and is approximately 1.5-2 miles on non-paved paths with 3 moderate inclines. There is only 1 main outdoor seating area at the base of the trail and approximately 4 (four) small benches along the trail. There are 2 (two) main bathrooms: one located across from the parking lot and the other by the Edward Bacciocco group area. There are no gender-neutral restrooms. The non-paved trail **does not have shaded areas**, thus participants are encouraged to bring hats, sunscreen, and/or umbrellas to avoid direct sunlight. More information about climate and weather will be provided as we get closer to the tour date. To view the Saddle Loop trail map, visit the link [HERE](#).

- **Rainbow Kids is BACK!**

- LGBTQ+ age-appropriate training for parents, caregivers, and professionals who support kids from pre-k through elementary school.
 - Dates: Wed 2/15 4-5:30pm; Wed 4/19 4-5:30pm; Wed 6/21 7-8:30pm; *Thurs 9/7 7-8:30pm
 - Watch out for registration information soon! Visit <https://www.communityequitycollaborative.org/rainbow-kids> for registration updates and resources!
 - You can also contact Azisa Todd at azisa.todd@sanmateopride.org for questions or more information.

- **Exploring our Roots: Unpacking Bias in Order to Grow**

- It's human nature to make assumptions about people, identities, and communities. Many of our beliefs are often passed on through generations and go unnamed. The Pride Center is proud to announce our new training, **Exploring Our Roots: Unpacking Bias in Order to Grow**. Supported by Kaiser Permanente, each training will create space allowing work to begin to unpack our own internalized myths we project on others, ask ourselves where they come from, and examine the roots of their inheritance. Stay tuned for more information about training dates/times and registration links. Please contact Azisa Todd at azisa.todd@sanmateopride.org for questions or more information. For more information about the Pride Center's training and educational services, visit: <https://sanmateopride.org/resources/trainings/>.

MONTHLY peer support groups for community members 18+:

Please note: all groups currently meet on Zoom, please stay tuned for updates

- 1. Trans Group**

- Beginning in January 2023, this group will meet on the **first Thursday** from 6:00-7:30 PM PST
- Upcoming dates: 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4 & 6/1
- Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-transgroup1>

- 2. LGBTQ+ Parent Peer Support Group**

- This group meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:30-8:30 PM PST
- Upcoming dates: 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2 & 6/6
- Register using this link: tinyurl.com/smcpc-parentsgroup

- 3. Polyamory Peer Power**

- This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 PM PST
- Upcoming dates: 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3 & 6/7
- Register using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-polyampower>
- Find out more on [Meetup](#)

4. **Gay Mens' Group**

- This group meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 PM PST
- Upcoming dates: 2/21, 3/21, 4/25, 5/23 & 6/27
- Registration is required: tinyurl.com/SMCPC-gaymensgroup

5. **Queer Women's Group**

- This group meets monthly on the 4th Friday from 6-7:30 PM PST
- Upcoming dates- 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26 & 6/23
- Registration is required: tinyurl.com/smcpc-queerwomensgroup

6. **Get App-y**

- This group meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month from 12-1PM
- Upcoming dates- 1/23*, 2/27*, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15 & 6/19
 - Jan and Feb dates reflect Outlet's holiday calendar
- Please contact helpathand@peninsulafamilyservice.org to register

7. **Trans Talks:** Topic- to be announced

- The Pride Center and Stanford LGBTQ+ Health Program co-host Trans Talks, a free, monthly workshop series that centers the health and wellness of our Transgender and Gender Diverse community members. Every month, a different professional from Stanford's LGBTQ+ Health Program will share information and lead a discussion. **Community members are invited to submit questions related to the topic and answer your questions.** This is a free workshop open to all community members.
 - January topic to be announced
 - For links to previous recordings, please click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/transtalks-recordings> (all recordings utilize closed captioning)
 - If you have questions, need support or would like to suggest a topic please contact Sawye (she/her) at raygani@stanford.edu

WEEKLY Peer Groups

1. Monday Night Youth Group (10-18) from 4:30-6:00 PM PST on Zoom (co-hosted with [Outlet](#))
2. Tuesday night QTBIPOC group (14-25) from 6-7:30 PM PST on Zoom (co-hosted with [Outlet](#))
 - a. Please click [this link](#) for information about registering to attend Outlet groups
3. Sharing is Caring (Lesbians 55+ Group) from 3-4 PM PST on Zoom (co-hosted with [PFS](#))
 - a. Please contact MEpstein@pfso.org to register for this group



San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative Report

- *Dana Johnson (they/ them/ theirs)- PRIDE Initiative co-chair*
- **LGBTQ Commission Meeting-** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 6:30pm

- ❖ **About the PRIDE Initiative:** The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in equality and parity for LGBTQ+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and respectful of LGBTQ+ issues.

- ❖ SMC Pride 2023 has been confirmed for Saturday June 10, 2023 from 11am-5pm
- ❖ We will be having our first SMC Pride Planning 2023 on January 20, 2023 from 11am-12pm. Join us as we plan for SMC Pride 2023
- ❖ Join us at the next Pride Initiative meeting (via virtual) on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 from 4:30-6pm.
 - PRIDE Initiative and local LGBTQI+ updates
 - To join the Virtual Pride Initiative Meeting please see the Zoom Conference Information below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510844451>

Meeting ID: 815 1084 4451

Passcode: PRIDEBHRS **(PLEASE NOTE: Password is now required to join)**



CoastPride Report

LGBTQ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @6:30pm

❖ About CoastPride

➤ Our Vision

A welcoming and safe Coastsides where all LGBTQ and gender-expansive individuals, their families, and allies thrive.

➤ Our Mission

Creating a Coastsides that supports and celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

❖ CoastPride Events/ Trainings:

❖ For events and to learn about what's going on at CoastPride see the newsletter.

➤ To receive the CoastPride email newsletter, sign up here: <https://coastpride.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

➤ Free Internet at CoastPride

- We've been hearing that a lot of folks are still without power and/or internet because of these storms.
- We've had reliable internet and power at the Center so far so if you need to charge anything or get online, please feel free to come by the Center during the following hours:

Today (Wednesday, 1/11) from now - 4 pm

Tomorrow (Thursday, 1/12) from 2 - 6 pm

Friday, 1/13, from 9 am - 12 pm

Saturday, 1/14, from 12 - 4 pm

Next week during normal open hours

Monday 10 am - 2 pm

Tuesday/Thursday 2 - 6 pm

Saturday 12 - 4 pm

To: San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission

From: Chloe Chan

Date: 1/7/23

Subject: Youth Commission Updates

Overview, Last Youth Commission Meeting: Committee Progress, Overall Updates

Update:

- Environmental Justice Committee
 - In the new year, my committee is focusing on creating our own symposium. Members of our committee are working on outreach to multiple schools to gain student interest, including poster making and social media posts. I am working on setting up guest speakers for the virtual event, which has a soft date of early April. These guest speakers include the leader of Chicago Asian Americans for Environmental Justice (CAAEJ) and local leaders of sustainability and environmental justice initiatives around the Bay Area (Brightline Defense, etc). The committee is additionally continuing previous commissioners' work to spread the [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) to 6 new local County High School Districts.

Update:

- Commission Outreach
 - In our last meeting, the commission as a whole had an in-depth discussion on the best methods that we would use to reach other youth in the community. We discussed potentially creating a Tik Tok account, as we were analyzing our most frequently used media sites and Tik Tok was one of them. Additionally our communication officers surveyed the entire commission to see which methods (instagram, physical posters, school fairs, etc) we think would work best to reach future commissioners and also provide greater opportunity for youth to reach out to us with prevalent issues that they hope to solve.

Update:

- Other Committees
 - Other committees are currently working on their work plans that I have described in previous report-outs. Since it is already January, we want to make sure we are nearly halfway through the implementation of our work plans and have all scheduled 1:1s with our adult mentors to make sure the process is running smoothly for each committee. We will also debrief our progress through an activity with guiding questions in our next meeting.

Thank you for your time and attention!

About Service provider, **Fahad Qurashi (He/him/his)**

Fahad has over 22 years of youth development, public policy, organization leadership, fund development, strategy and program design experience. He is the son of immigrants from Pakistan and a long time Bay Area resident, and is committed to addressing forms of inequity that communities of color experience everyday. Fahad has expertise in creating policy solutions in partnership with community members, elected officials and philanthropic leaders across the region. He has led incredible collaborative efforts that span intersecting issues that include health equity, financial and economic justice, transportation justice and education reform. He has led the design and implementation of nationally recognized youth leadership programs and is also an expert trainer/facilitator building the capacity of community-led coalitions across the country.

Fahad has a longstanding relationship of over 15 years at yli (Youth Leadership Institute), spanning from his time as a program participant in tobacco prevention efforts to serving as a regional director supporting the Bay Area offices. Through this trajectory shift at yli, he has been at all levels of the staffing experience, which he leverages in his current role as Chief Program Officer.

Prior to rejoining yli in 2022, Fahad served as the Senior Director of Strategy at MyPath – the national nonprofit seeding youth economic opportunity. With MyPath, he led efforts to scale programs that integrate financial capability into emerging guaranteed income projects and other special projects, leading policy and advocacy efforts and supporting the organization’s youth development model and leadership work.

Fahad has a B.A. from San Francisco State University in political science and is a 2016 Urban Habitat Board and Commissions Leadership Institute graduate. He is deeply committed to amplifying youth voice, community power and the ability to change community conditions.



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO LGBTQ COMMISSION

Meeting Schedule

1. Meetings of the LGBTQ Commission are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.
2. Starting in March, meetings will be in-person.

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21 (Tuesday of Thanksgiving week)

December 19