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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-38

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Alan Webber

A RESOLUTION

PERMITTING REMOTE MEETINGS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES WHETHER OR NOT IT IS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN PERSON WHEN THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DETERMINES IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC TO DO SO.

WHEREAS, the rules governing committees, Resolution No. 2009-20, require that all City boards, committees, task forces, and commissions follow the Open Meetings Act, regardless of if they are policy-making bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Open Meetings Act only permits remote attendance by committee members when it is difficult or impossible for the member to attend; and

WHEREAS, in-person meetings are difficult to attend for certain committee members and certain members of the public; and

WHEREAS, facilitating hybrid meetings can require significant staff resources, with a minimum of two staff currently needed to support hybrid meetings in the Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, certain accessibility technology is not easily incorporated into a hybrid

1 meeting; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the existing Committee Rules’ standards and limitations do not maximize
3 opportunities for participation in City meetings; and

4 **WHEREAS**, a “remote meeting” means a meeting at which all participants participate via
5 video conferencing, such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, or other similar platforms,
6 through which all participants may be heard and identified by each other and by the public.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
8 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that, upon a vote of a committee’s membership that it is in the best interest
9 of the public for the committee to hold a remote meeting, either for a particular meeting, a set of
10 meetings, or indefinitely, the advisory committee may hold remote meetings, regardless of whether
11 it is difficult or impossible for the members of the committee to meet in person.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a committee may vote to meet in person again at
13 any time.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that an advisory committee shall place a vote to meet
15 remotely or return to in-person meetings on its published agenda before voting on the issue.

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution does not modify the requirement that
17 advisory committees follow other aspects of the Open Meetings Act, such as notice, minutes,
18 limitations on communications among quorums, etc.

19 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 27th day of July, 2022.

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23 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR
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1 ATTEST:

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4 KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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8 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2022/Resolutions/2022-38 Permitting Remote Meetings for Advisory Committees*