

City Council Meeting Technology Disruption Policy

City Council
May 19, 2026



BACKGROUND

- SB 707 amended the Ralph M. Brown Act
 - Some requirements became effective January 1, 2026
 - Others will take effect July 1, 2026
- The City Council is required to establish a policy addressing technology disruptions during City Council meetings prior to July 1, 2026
- These provisions sunset January 1, 2030



PROPOSED POLICY

- The policy applies to most City Council meetings, except emergency situations and other narrow exceptions allowed under the Brown Act
- In the event a service disruption occurs:
 - The Mayor or City Clerk must immediately announce the disruption
 - The Mayor shall call a recess
 - Staff will make a good faith effort to diagnose and restore the service
 - The recess can be ended after service is restored or after 1 hour



PROPOSED POLICY (continued)

- If the disruption is not resolved after 1 hour:
 - The meeting can be adjourned
 - Council can vote to continue the meeting, but the motion must be a roll call vote and include certain findings:
 - There was a good faith effort to restore service
 - The public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access
 - Items can be continued to another meeting as part of the motion or a subsequent motion
- The meeting minutes must include the nature of the disruption, the efforts taken to restore service, the time the meeting was reconvened and the finding adopted to reconvene without service being restored



PROPOSED POLICY (continued)

- Agendas must include that the Policy will be provided by the City Clerk or available online, including a link to the Policy
- If the Legislature does not extend the provisions, the Policy will also sunset on January 1, 2030



Questions?

