



CITY OF SALEM

In City Council, April 13, 2023

Ordered:

Notwithstanding Chapter 2 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2023 allowing public bodies to continue holding public meetings remotely until March 31, 2025, the City Council and its Standing Committees shall meet in person. In person shall be the primary method of public access to such meetings. A secondary method of public access may be provided, if technologically feasible, though Salem Access Television and/or remotely through technological means such as Zoom.

A quorum of members must be present in person unless a meeting is posted noting that the meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, meaning both in person and remotely and enabling a quorum to include members present in Council Chambers and remotely. A hybrid meeting may only be held if members of the public can observe and listen to the meeting, or if it is a public hearing, they are able to provide public comment remotely.

All meeting notices shall indicate clearly whether or not the primary method of public access is in person, in person with a secondary public access via remote participation, or hybrid where the in-person and remote access must both be available. If applicable, the meeting notice shall indicate how members of the public may access the meeting remotely including the relevant links, URLs, access codes, PINs, meeting ID numbers, or telephone numbers.

This Order supersedes the Remote Participation Policy adopted by the City Council on March 24, 2022.

In City Council April 13, 2023
Referred to the Committee of the Whole

ATTEST:

ILENE SIMONS
CITY CLERK

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CITY OF SALEM

ROBERT MCCARTHY, ACTING MAYOR

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April 13, 2023

Salem City Council
City Hall
Salem, MA 01970

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council:

At a recent meeting of the City Council's Committee on Public Health, Safety and the Environment (PHSE), co-posted with the Committee of the Whole, I was asked to prepare an Order relative to establishing in-person meetings as the primary method of public access to City Council and Committee meetings. Enclosed herewith is a proposed Order.

I have based the proposed Order on the current practice of holding Council meetings in person and recent communications with the Attorney General's Division of Open Government following technical difficulties with a zoom link at a PHSE meeting.

If you have any questions relative to the proposed Order, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rennard

Enclosure

Ilene Simons

From: Beth Rennard
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:29 AM
To: Megan Stott; Patricia Morsillo; Ilene Simons
Subject: meetings
Attachments: order - council meetings in person.docx

After speaking with Ilene, I revised the second paragraph by deleting the phrase "within 48 hours" because she would be able to revise an agenda posted as in person with remote as a secondary/convenience and make it a true hybrid meeting even if it is less than 48 hrs. This would be in the event a quorum is unable to appear in person.

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