

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE GEORGIA OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO ALLOW THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MAY HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCE OR OTHER DIGITAL MEANS ON THE SAME BASIS AS STATE AGENCIES

WHEREAS, during the period of COVID-19 Emergency the Mayor, Council and City staff have invested in and perfected the use of technology that allows for the conduct of virtual meetings that allow contemporaneous observing and participation in meetings of its Council and various Boards and Commissions; and,

WHEREAS, Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 50-14-1(f) allows statewide agencies to provide for the use meetings by teleconference; and

WHEREAS, Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 50-14-1(g) provides that all other local government boards and commission may only hold a legal open meeting when a quorum of the members can be present in person unless there is a declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly could amend the Open Meeting Law to allow local governments and their boards and commissions to take advantage of the same teleconferencing ability.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby respectfully request that the Local Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation at the 2020 Special Session to amend O.C.G.A 50-14-1(g) so that telephonic or video meetings can be held by local boards and commissions under non-emergent circumstances as long as the public can hear, view and participate in the meeting contemporaneously.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 12th day of May, 2020 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation vote of ____ members of Council.

Councilor Allen	voting	_____
Councilor Barnes	voting	_____
Councilor Crabb	voting	_____
Councilor Davis	voting	_____
Councilor Garrett	voting	_____
Councilor House	voting	_____
Councilor Huff	voting	_____
Councilor Thomas	voting	_____
Councilor Thompson	voting	_____
Councilor Woodson	voting	_____

Sandra T. Davis
Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor