

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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 From:
 Stacy Bruzek Banerjee

 To:
 Public Comment

 Cc:
 Jon Maginot

Subject: Public Comment Item #10 Commission meeting location - March 14 2023

Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:21:58 PM

Honorable Mayor Meadows, Vice-Mayor Weinberg, and Councilmembers,

It is important to give city commissioners the most flexibility allowed under the state law for attending meetings virtually. Commissioners are city volunteers and have many other commitments (such as business travel/personal travel, personal circumstances, illness, etc.), and may not be able to attend a particular meeting in-person but want the option to attend virtually. As a city, we benefit from -- and should welcome -- the contributions our commissioners make at meetings whether they attend in-person or virtual as allowed by the state law.

As the chair of the VTA BPAC, I have successfully presided over our February and March meetings where some members of the committee were in-person and others remote. Members were able to contribute - their location was immaterial (as long as state law was followed). I believe we can similarly be successful with city commission meetings, and I know our commissioners are seeking the flexibility of attendance location.

Our city should embrace the meeting location flexibility allowed by the state for commissioners (and councilmembers). The city may also choose to encourage our state elected leaders to create further flexibility around where elected/appointed individuals may attend a meeting from. The past 3 years have proven that we can effectively conduct public business/meetings online.

Stacy Banerjee CSC Chair