

Technology Disruption Policy

Policy Regarding Disruption of Telephonic or Internet Service During Public Meetings

This policy establishes procedures for responding to disruptions in the telephonic or internet services that provide two-way remote public access to meetings of City Council.

For purposes of this section:

“Disruption” means any failure, outage, or technical interruption that prevents members of the public from attending or observing the meeting via the agency’s remote access services.

“Meeting” means any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, including teleconference location as permitted by Government Code Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

Consistent with Government Code Section 54953, if a disruption of telephonic or internet service that prevents members of the public from attending or observing the meeting via the two-way telephonic service or two-way audiovisual platform occurs during the meeting, the legislative body shall recess the open session of the meeting for at least one hour and make a good faith attempt to restore the service.

The legislative body may meet in closed session during this period. The legislative body shall not reconvene the open session of the meeting until at least one hour following the disruption, or until telephonic or internet service is restored, whichever is earlier.

Upon reconvening the open session, if telephonic or internet service has not been restored, the legislative body shall adopt a finding by rollcall vote that good faith efforts to restore the telephonic or internet service have been made in accordance with this policy and that the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access.

The meeting minutes shall include the nature and time of the disruption; the restoration efforts undertaken; the time the meeting was reconvened, if applicable; any finding adopted by the legislative body.