

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

ENCOURAGING Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly to immediately amend Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 to enable members of public bodies of the State of Ohio to hold and attend meetings and conduct hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, until December 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, the experience gained over the past sixteen months under emergency measures suspending certain aspects of the Ohio Open Meetings Act has demonstrated the benefit to both the public and members of public bodies of being able to attend public meetings remotely via modern communications technology; and

WHEREAS, in addition to increasing public access and public participation in such meetings, use of this technology supports social distancing necessary to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the population; and

WHEREAS, the recent increase in COVID-19 diagnoses in the State of Ohio, due to the Delta variant of the virus, underscores the need to continue practicing appropriate health measures to fight further contagion, including but not limited to social distancing; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Ohio's citizens not be compelled to choose between preserving their health and in-person participation in public hearings and meetings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby call upon the Governor of the State of Ohio and the Ohio General Assembly to immediately amend Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 to enable members of public bodies of the State of Ohio to hold and attend meetings and conduct hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, until December 31, 2021.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and copies be provided to the offices of Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly through the office of Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman