

A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL CHAIR TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATE LOCATIONS TO HOLD IN-PERSON MEETINGS DURING THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION BY DECLARATION OF THE CHAIR

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order No. 14 issued on March 12, 2020, declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 emergency and Executive Order 15 issued on March 19th providing that private and governmental entities eliminate all types of large public gatherings and conduct business remotely; and

WHEREAS, it was important that Tennessee cities continue to handle government functions during the COVID-19 emergency, but to also take the appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of citizens and government officials; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Governor's orders, the Memphis City Council has continued to meet to carry out essential functions during the health emergency and has operated utilizing electronic and telephonic means to conduct its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the current health crisis has proven to be a situation that has demanded flexibility and adjustment as the medical emergency continues to evolve; and

WHEREAS, the number of positive COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Shelby County have continued to rise, it is prudent that the Council continues to be vigilant in its protection of the citizens and those officials conducting the city's business; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 16 issued on March 20, 2020 is set to expire on June 30, 2020 and should Governor Bill Lee lift his authorization allowing cities to conduct business remotely, the Memphis City Council must be prepared to offer a location to conduct its meetings; and

WHEREAS, pre-pandemic, the Memphis City Council held its Regular Meetings in the Chambers of City Hall, but as the location is undergoing renovations which are not slated to conclude until October 2020, the body must plan for an alternate location to handle its business; and

WHEREAS, continuing to provide for the health, safety and well-being of citizens and members of the Council whenever in-person meetings are allowed, the Council Chair is hereby authorized to find a suitable site to conduct business that would also provide for ample social distancing and safety precautions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL that the Council Chair is hereby authorized to investigate alternative locations in which to conduct in-person City Council meetings if the need arises during the current health crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Referendum Ordinance No. 4274, the Council Chair or the Vice-Chairman in her absence may implement this Resolution without further authorization from the Council by issuance of a written Declaration, which gives notice to the Council members and the public of the place(s) for Council Meetings at least five (5) business days before any scheduled meeting or before any properly scheduled special meeting.

Sponsor: Council Chairwoman

PATRICE ROBINSON
CHAIRWOMAN