



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

**Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor**

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 411 (Portantino) Open meetings: teleconferences: neighborhood councils.  
City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am writing to express our **SUPPORT for SB 411 (Portantino) and respectfully request your signature on this important bill.** This legislation effectively builds on the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, providing the necessary adjustments to modernize and adapt to the ever-evolving technological landscape.

COVID-19 exposed the importance of flexibility and adaptability in governance, with virtual meetings providing a viable solution for public officials and constituents to connect, even in the face of extraordinary circumstances. By allowing for teleconferencing during meetings, SB 411 bridges the geographical gap between public officials and the communities they represent, while fostering greater public participation.

The bill's specifications for neighborhood councils are particularly encouraging, offering these bodies the option to use alternate teleconferencing provisions. This will go a long way in promoting more citizen participation and making government more responsive to local needs.

By mandating conditions such as public accessibility to teleconferencing locations, the opportunity to comment in real-time, and ensuring a quorum of members participating from within city boundaries, SB 411 maintains the transparency and openness that is the cornerstone of good governance.

We appreciate the provision which empowers a city council to adopt a resolution authorizing or prohibiting neighborhood councils from using these alternate teleconferencing provisions. This allows for city-specific needs to be considered, thus ensuring that each city can adapt the legislation to its unique circumstances.

We believe this bill successfully strikes a balance between maintaining the principles of transparency, accessibility, and public participation, while adapting to the evolving

needs of our city and our time. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills **SUPPORTS SB 411 (Portantino)** and respectfully requests your signature on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julian A. Gold, M.D  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51<sup>st</sup> District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange