

**From:** noreply@granicusideas.com <noreply@granicusideas.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 4:14 PM  
**Subject:** New eComment for Planning Commission Virtual Meeting 11/16/21

Supplemental  
Information  
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## New eComment for Planning Commission Virtual Meeting 11/16/21

Anthony Higgins submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: Planning Commission Virtual Meeting 11/16/21

Item: 4. Oral / Written Communications

eComment: The virtual meeting default for city commission meetings leaves a lot to be desired and raises questions about the city's commitment to public participation. On one hand i recognize that as an add on to in-person or minimally hybrid meetings it has value. But the excuse, and its just that, that virtual meetings are required for public safety is simply another example of the city twisting the covid legislation into a PERK for City employees under false pretense. The planning commission agenda justifies the teleconference-only format as a covid safety issue. THIS MEETING IS HELD PURSUANT TO AB 361 (CHAPTER 165, STATUTES OF 2021) ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2021. PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE BY TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE BY TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL MEETING IN ORDER TO RESTRICT THE IMMEDIATE RISKS TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ATTENDEES.

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order to restrict the IMMEDIATE RISKS to the health and safety of attendees.... While we may very well see a rise in covid over the winter over the past 3-6 months there would have been no IMMEDIATE THREAT from Covid posed by hybrid or in-person council and/or commission meetings if the city would have followed simple precautions like requiring vaccinations, distancing and masks. And while the zoom crowd may benefit from teleconferencing it should NOT be done to the exclusion of hybrid or in-person meetings where the speakers voices often are either "tinty" or sound like they are speaking from deep within a canyon. This may not affect people with good hearing but if your hearing is marginal like mine its impossible to understand when these distortions are present. Its an unnecessary barrier to public participation and saying its required because of an imminent threat to health and safety is just ridiculous. Reasonable covid safety precautions could easily be implemented but city staff especially those living outside the city are the main beneficiaries and the hearing disabled and prefer in-person meetings are paying the price.... closed captions are spotty at best.... give us a choice and please stop pretending that Covid safety is the reason for the virtual meetings.... That is just more gaslighting and weve had enough of that. Anthony Higgins