

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: September 4, 2012

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Resolution 2012-51 Reaffirming the City's Commitment to Open Government and Compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act

REPORT BY: Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt Resolution No. 2012-51 reaffirming the City's commitment to open government and compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

BACKGROUND

Due to State budget deficits, the State Legislature recently passed AB 1464, a budget trailer bill signed into law on June 27, 2012, which contains a schedule of state mandates that are being suspended during the 2012-2013 budget year. In addition, Senate Bill 1006, enacted the same day as AB 1464, amended Section 17581 of the Government Code, extending the period of suspension for said mandates through fiscal year 2014-2015.

Included in these suspensions are certain public noticing provisions of the Brown Act (California Government Code section 54950). These provisions include the requirement for publicized meetings of government and advisory bodies in local government, and the allowance for members of the public to be present and to address the body on issues relevant to the body's authority.

DISCUSSION

Community engagement has been and continues to be a priority for the City, particularly given the City Council's Vision Statement: The City of Albany is environmentally and fiscally sound, champions a healthy local economy, fosters safe, diverse and engaged neighborhoods, and treasures its unique waterfront. The City has consistently acted in compliance with the Brown Act provisions for open meetings, posting meeting agendas in advance of public meetings and also extending opportunities for public comment at public meetings.

Resolution No. 2012-51 is intended to reaffirm the City's ongoing commitment to providing advanced notice of public meetings and allowing the public the ability to provide comment at public meetings to help provide for community involvement and transparent government.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Compliance with the Brown Act Provisions is a continued staff responsibility, therefore no additional funds will be required to continue this work. However, the City will not be eligible to receive reimbursement from the State of California for the staff time and any related costs, due to the State's suspension of the mandate.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2012-51