

RESOLUTION NO. 25-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING POLICIES FOR ABSENT CITY COMMISSION AND BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, BY ADDING MILITARY SERVICE AS AN EXCEPTION FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION, REDUCING THE MINIMUM TIME TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF ABSENCE, RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 20-214, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 12-84 adopted on May 1, 2012, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, revised and consolidated policies for absent City Commission and Board and Committee Members to participate in meetings through communications technology; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2020, the City Commission rescinded Resolution No. 12-84 and adopted Resolution No. 20-214, which further revised the City's policy regarding participation in meetings by absent City Commission and Board and Committee Members through communications technology; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to rescind and replace Resolution No. 20-214 by further revising its policy regarding participation in meetings by absent City Commission and Board and Committee Members through communications technology; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to amend the City's remote participation policy by adding military service as an exception for remote participation and reducing the minimum time for members to provide the City clerk's office with written notice of their absence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That Resolution No. 20-214 is hereby rescinded.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission hereby revises its policies for absent members of the City Commission and the City's Boards and Committees to participate in meetings through communications technology as follows:

A member who is physically absent from a city commission, board or committee meeting may participate through the use of communications technology if:

1. The cause for the absence is an extraordinary circumstance as determined by the City Commission. The City Commission has determined that physical absences for the following reasons constitute extraordinary circumstances:
 - a. During local states of emergency declared by the City Commission or Mayor pursuant to Section 2-274, Code of Ordinances, or states of emergency declared by Broward County, the Governor of the State of Florida, or the Federal government;
 - b. Physical disability, illness or medical treatment of the member;
 - c. Matters related to death or illness in the member's family;
 - d. The member is out of Broward County for business purposes, only to be exercised once per fiscal year;
 - e. The member is on City business;
 - f. The member is on vacation, only to be exercised once per fiscal year;
 - g. The member is unable to be physically present due to military deployment or other military service, only to be exercised three times per fiscal year.
2. Except during states of emergency pursuant to Subsection 1(a) of this Section, it is not a quasi-judicial proceeding or matter requiring a public hearing by law or ordinance.
3. Except during states of emergency pursuant to Subsection 1(a) of this Section, there is a quorum physically present at the meeting.
4. There is a communication system that allows the absent member to hear and talk to other members and the public, and view materials or exhibits presented during the

meeting. Additionally, the system must enable the public and members present to hear and talk to the absent member.

5. If possible, notice that a city commission member will be absent must be given in writing to the city clerk's office at least four days before the meeting and included on the posted notice. Less notice can be given in case of emergency. The member's notice must specify the extraordinary circumstance resulting in the absence.
6. Written notice that a board or committee member will be absent from a meeting must be given to the city clerk's office at least four days prior to such meeting and included on the posted notice for the meeting. In the event of an emergency that makes it impossible to provide notice at least four days prior to the meeting, written notice shall be provided to the city clerk's office at least 5 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Except for states of emergency pursuant to Subsection 1(a) of this Section, at the beginning of such meeting, the board or committee shall determine by vote whether the event constitutes an emergency. If the board or committee finds that such event does not constitute an emergency, then the member will not be allowed to participate through the use of communications technology. The member's notice must specify the extraordinary circumstance resulting in the absence.

SECTION 3. That if any clause, section, or other part of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Resolution shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. That any resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

Interim City Attorney
D'WAYNE M. SPENCE

Dean J. Trantalis _____

John C. Herbst _____

Steven Glassman _____

Pamela Beasley-Pittman _____

Ben Sorensen _____