

**CITY OF RACINE MAYORAL PROCLAMATION
VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

Whereas, on March 18, 2020, I first proclaimed a public health emergency to exist in the City of Racine as a result of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which is a dangerous respiratory illness that can spread from person to person; and

Whereas, COVID-19 continued to spread through the southeastern Wisconsin region, necessitating regularly-updated guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials; and

Whereas, emergency declarations regarding City of Racine operations were continued and extended by the Racine Common Council throughout 2020 and into 2021, and then allowed to expire June 30, 2021, based upon the data demonstrating that the incidence of COVID-19 cases had diminished to a point that would permit the full return to the in-person conduct of City business; and

Whereas, despite extraordinary efforts taken by City of Racine officers, employees, and public health professionals, there has been a recent resurgence of the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases; and

Whereas, protecting the health and safety of City of Racine residents and employees, and elected officials, is of paramount importance; and

Whereas, the Common Council, its committees, and the various boards, authorities, and commissions of the City of Racine must continue to meet in an orderly, safe, and healthy manner; and

Now therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Racine by Wisconsin Statutes sections 62.09(8)(a), 323.11, and 323.14(4), I do declare, proclaim, and order as follows:

All meetings of governmental bodies of the City of Racine shall be conducted virtually. Members of the public shall not be permitted to attend meetings in person.

The requirement in Racine Ordinance section 2-670(b), that all meetings of governmental bodies of the City of Racine be convened in a meeting room of the City, is hereby suspended.

The requirement in Racine Ordinance section 2-671(a), that members of governmental bodies of the City of Racine must notify the chair of the body that the member will appear via electronic attendance, is hereby suspended.

Nothing in this order affects the requirements contained in the remainder of Chapter 2, Article XI, Electronic Attendance at Meetings, of the Racine Code of Ordinances.

Notwithstanding any existing practice or ordinance, members of City of Racine governmental bodies shall attend meetings through video conferencing or telephonically as available technology permits.

Any City of Racine governmental body, including the Common Council and any committee thereof, who appears at any meeting by way of video conferencing or telephonically shall be considered to be in attendance for purposes of determining the existence of a quorum for any such meeting.

Nothing in this order shall prohibit the chair of any meeting of any City of Racine governmental body from finding that any member thereof has departed any meeting by disconnecting or by failing to actively participate in such meeting and, so, determine the continuing existence of a quorum.

The City of Racine City Clerk and the City of Racine Director of Management Information Services are authorized and directed to undertake any necessary actions to carry this order into effect.

This order shall continue in effect until 12:01 a.m., November 3, 2021, unless earlier terminated by the Common Council of the City of Racine.

This order shall be presented to the Common Council for consideration of ratification August 17, 2021.

Dated at Racine, Wisconsin, this 5th day of August 2021.


Cory Mason
Mayor