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Reply to: Venice

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Kelly M. Fernandez, Esq., City Attorney

DATE: August 30, 2019

RE: Remote Attendance of Council Meetings

At the request of City Council, the City Clerk and I have reviewed when and how a Council Member may remotely participate in a Council meeting. The Florida Attorney General has recognized that, for good cause shown, a Council Member can remotely attend a meeting with full participation rights (including voting) if a physical quorum is present and the Member participating remotely can be heard by those present and can hear those present. Good cause may include illness, family emergency, or an unavoidable scheduling conflict.

Should Council desire to authorize and formalize remote attendance of meetings, the attached Resolution from the City of Naples is a good example. Due to the nature of quasi-judicial hearings, I do not recommend authorizing remote participation for those portions of a meeting.