



CITY COUNCIL MEETING DISRUPTION POLICY

*Adopted by Lodi City Council on [ADOPTION DATE];
Resolution No. 2026-XX*

Policy: Disruption of Telephonic or Internet Service During Meetings

1. Background

Senate Bill 707 (2025) amended the Brown Act to require eligible legislative bodies to adopt, on or before July 1, 2026, a policy addressing how the agency will respond to disruptions in telephonic or internet service that prevent members of the public from participating remotely.

2. Purpose

This policy establishes procedures for responding to a disruption in the telephonic or internet services that provide two-way remote public access to meetings of the Lodi City Council, as required by the Brown Act (Government Code section 54953.4). The policy ensures transparency, public participation, and the continuation of meetings despite technological disruptions.

3. Definitions

“Service Disruption” means any failure, outage, or other interruption of the City’s remote access services that prevents members of the public from participating in the City Council meeting through the remote access service.

“Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a City Council that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to one of the following:

1. A failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by the Lodi City Council; and,
2. Engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.
- 3.

“Remote access services” means the two-way telephonic service and/or two-way audiovisual platform used to provide real-time remote public attendance and observation of meetings.

“Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic service.

“Two-way telephonic platform” means a telephone service that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen to, and verbally participate in, a meeting.

“True threat of force” means a threat that has sufficient indicia of intent and seriousness that a reasonable observer would perceive it to be an actual threat to use force by the person making the threat.

4. Applicability

This policy applies to all open and public meetings of the City Council at which remote public participation is offered or required under the Brown Act. Consistently with the Brown Act, this policy shall not apply to the following meetings:

1. Meetings held to attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which City of Lodi is a party;
2. Meetings held to inspect real or personal property provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or personal property;
3. Meetings held to meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States of the State of California, solely to discuss a legislative or regulatory issue affecting the City of Lodi and over which the federal or state officials have jurisdiction;
4. Meetings held to meet in or nearby a facility owned by the City, provided that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to the facility; and,
5. Meeting in an emergency situation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.5

5. Response to Service Disruption

If the Mayor or Clerk becomes aware of a service disruption:

1. The Mayor or Clerk shall immediately announce the service disruption to the public.
2. The Mayor shall call for a recess of the open session and may convene the City Council in closed session, consistently with the Brown Act. The recess shall last for one hour or until service is restored, whichever is earlier.
3. During the recess, agency staff shall make a good faith effort to diagnose and restore the disrupted service if possible.

6. Reconvening the Open Session

After the expiration of the hour, if the service has not been restored, the Mayor or Clerk shall report on the status of staff's efforts to restore remote access services, and the City Council may reconvene to:

1. Adjourn the meeting;
2. Extend the recess to allow staff more time to restore remote access services; or
3. Continue the meeting in open session by adopting, by roll call vote, the following or a substantially similar finding:
 "The City of Lodi has made good faith efforts to restore telephonic or internet service in accordance with its adopted policy, and the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access."

Upon adoption of the finding, the legislative body may continue the open session despite the fact that remote access services have not been restored.

7. Recordkeeping

The Clerk shall enter a brief statement into the meeting minutes, including:

- The nature and time of the service disruption
- The time the meeting was reconvened (if applicable)
- Any finding adopted pursuant to Section 6.

8. Response to Members of the Public Disrupting a Meeting

If the Mayor or Clerk becomes aware of a member of the public acting in a manner that impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting or prevents other members of the public from attending or observing the meeting remotely or in-person:

1. The Mayor or Clerk shall warn the person who is participating through remote access services that they are disrupting the meeting and their failure to cease that behavior may result in their removal.
2. If a person to whom the Mayor or Clerk gave the above warning persists in disrupting the meeting, the Mayor shall order staff to:
 - a. mute the individual's audio feed, if the disruption is auditory;
 - b. turn off the individual's video feed, if the disruption is visual; or
 - c. remove the individual from the meeting if paragraphs (a) & (b) do not address the disrupting behavior.

8. Review and Updates

This policy may be amended by the City Council at a noticed public meeting in open session and may not be placed on the consent calendar.

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