

ORDINANCE NO. _____

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3 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LITTLE ROCK, ARK.,
4 REV. CODE § 2-50 (b)(2) (1988) and (c) TO CLARIFY
5 THE DEFINITION OF PRESENT AT A MEETING OF
6 THE LITTLE ROCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OR THE
7 MEETING OF ANY BOARD, COMMISSION, OR OTHER
8 GROUP APPOINTED, OR FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN
9 PART BY THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK; TO DECLARE
10 AN EMERGENCY; AND, FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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12 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of significant
13 advances in technology, it was important to provide an effective means to assure
14 attendance at meetings of the Little Rock Board of Directors, and at the various
15 meetings of boards, commissions, and other groups funded in whole or in part
16 by the City including ,but not limited to, the provision of staff, resources, or
17 meeting places; and,

18 WHEREAS, with the development of effective vaccines to deal with
19 COVID-19, such special arrangements are no longer necessary, and the
20 attendance of elected or appointed officials is the best way to assure the
21 transparency of actions by the City of Little Rock, Arkansas (“the City”), and to
22 foster collegiality and discussion by the elected or appointed officials of pending
23 issues;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
25 OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

26 Section 1. Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Cide § 2-50 (b)(2) and (c) (1988) is
27 hereby repealed.

1 **Section 2.** Little Rock, Rev. Code § 2-50 (1988) is hereby amended to add
2 the following:

3 (b) (1) If necessary, because of a medical or health situation,
4 for a member of:

5 (A) The Board of Directors, or a member of any municipal board
6 or commission, or

7 (B) Any body appointed by the Board of Directors or the Mayor,
8 or,

9 (C) Any body funded in part by the City, which means in addition
10 to the provision of financial support, other support such as City
11 staff, resources, or meeting places;

12 present shall be that the elected or appointed person is present in
13 person at the time and place of the scheduled meeting in order to be
14 counted for any purpose including the passage of legislation, the
15 approval of policy statements, or the establishment of a quorum for the
16 meeting, provided that the Board of Directors may permit the
17 attendance of such a person if it is required to address a certified health
18 or medical emergency or condition.

19 (2) A certified health or medical emergency or condition is one
20 that has been brought to the attention of the Mayor who shall authorize
21 a member may attend by electronic or telephonic means which identify
22 the individual, and contains a concurrent video image of the individual
23 means for a limited period of time not to exceed thirty (30) days without
24 further express approval; and, provided further, that if the person with
25 the medical condition is an elected official, no action has been taken to
26 remove that person from office in accordance with Arkansas law.

1 (c) A majority of the board of directors, or any commission board, or
2 appointed body of the City upon which the Mayor sits, includes the
3 presence of the Mayor in determining that a quorum has been met.

4 (d)..Nothing in this ordinance prohibits modifications to the definition of
5 present if required by the declaration of a local disaster emergency as
6 defined by Arkansas statute.

7 **Section 3. Severability.** In the event any title, section, paragraph, item,
8 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be
9 invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the
10 remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as
11 if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not
12 originally a part of the ordinance.

13 **Section 4. Repealer.** All ordinances, resolutions, bylaws, and other matters
14 inconsistent with this ordinance, including but not limited to Little Rock, Ark.,
15 Ordinance No. 21,847 (March 25, 2020), Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 21,953
16 (January 19, 2021), and Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code § 2-50 (1988), are hereby
17 repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

18 **Section 4. Emergency.** *The ability City to assure openness, transparency, and*
19 *collegiality in the discussion of issues pending before the Little Rock Board of*
20 *Directors, and before its various boards, commissions, or other appointed entities, and*
21 *yet provide for special circumstances such as medical or health conditions of persons*
22 *who are dedicated to public service, is essential to the public health, safety and*
23 *welfare; an emergency is, therefore, declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in*
24 *full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.*

25 PASSED: January __, 2025

26 ATTEST:

27 APPROVED:

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Allison Segars, City Clerk

Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

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