1	ORDINANCE NO		
2			
3	AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LITTLE ROCK, ARK., REV. CODE § 2-50		
4	(b)(2) (1988) and (c) TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF PRESENT AT A		
5	MEETING OF THE LITTLE ROCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS; TO DE-		
6	CLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND, FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
7			
8	WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of significant advances in technology, i		
9	was important to provide an effective means to assure attendance at meetings of the Little Rock Board o		
10	Directors; and,		
11	WHEREAS, with the development of effective vaccines to deal with COVID-19, such special arrange		
12	ments are no longer necessary, and the attendance of elected or appointed officials is the best way to assure		
13	the transparency of actions by the City of Little Rock, Arkansas ("the City"), and to foster collegiality and		
14	discussion by the elected or appointed officials of pending issues;		
15	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY		
16	OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:		
17	Section 1. Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code § 2-50 (b)(2) and (c) (1988) is hereby repealed.		
18	Section 2. Little Rock, Rev. Code § 2-50 (1988) is hereby amended to add the following:		
19	(b)		
20	(1) If it is impossible for a member of the Board of Directors, including but not limited to		
21	the Mayor to be physically in the chambers at the time of a regular, special, or agenda		
22	meeting, including any executive session, the person will still be deemed present for		
23	all purposes including, but not limited to, the establishment of a quorum, the passage		
24	of legislation, or the approval of policy statements if the Board of Directors, by a res		
25	olution has made a finding that the member cannot be physically present because of a		
26	certified health or medical emergency or condition.		
27	(2) A certified health or medical emergency or condition is one that has been brought to		
28	the attention of the Mayor and upon passage of a Resolution of the Board of Directors		
29	authorizes that such a specific member may attend by electronic or telephonic means		
30	for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, provided that a concurrent video image with		
31	audio is provided, or if that is not possible, that a member of City staff is present with		
32	the member to verify that any comments or actions were taken by the member, a person		
33	known to the staff member.		

4	condition is subject to an action has to remove that person from office in accordance		
5	with Arkansas law.		
6	(c) Notwithstanding any other rule or provision, a majority of the board of directors for purpos		
7	of determining the presence	of a quorum, may include the position of Mayor.	
8	(d) Nothing in this ordinance pro	phibits modifications to the definition of present if required by the	
9	declaration of a local disaste	r emergency as defined by Arkansas statute.	
10	Section 3. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word		
11	of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication		
12	shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the		
13	portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the ordinance.		
14	Section 4. Repealer. All ordinances, resolutions, bylaws, and other matters inconsistent with this ordi-		
15	nance, including but not limited to Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 21,847 (March 25, 2020), Little Rock,		
16	Ark., Ordinance No. 21,953 (January 19, 2021), and Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code § 2-50 (1988), are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.		
17			
18	Section 4. Emergency. The ability City to assure openness, transparency, and collegiality in the dis-		
19	cussion of issues pending before the Little Rock Board of Directors, and before its various boards, commis-		
20	sions, or other appointed entities, and yet provide for special circumstances such as medical or health		
21	conditions of persons who are dedicated to public service, is essential to the public health, safety and wel-		
22	fare; an emergency is, therefore, declare	d to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from	
23	and after the date of its passage.		
24	PASSED: February 18, 2025		
25	ATTEST:	APPROVED:	
26			
27			
28	Allison Segars, City Clerk	Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor	
29	APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:		
30			
31			
32	Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney		
33	//		