



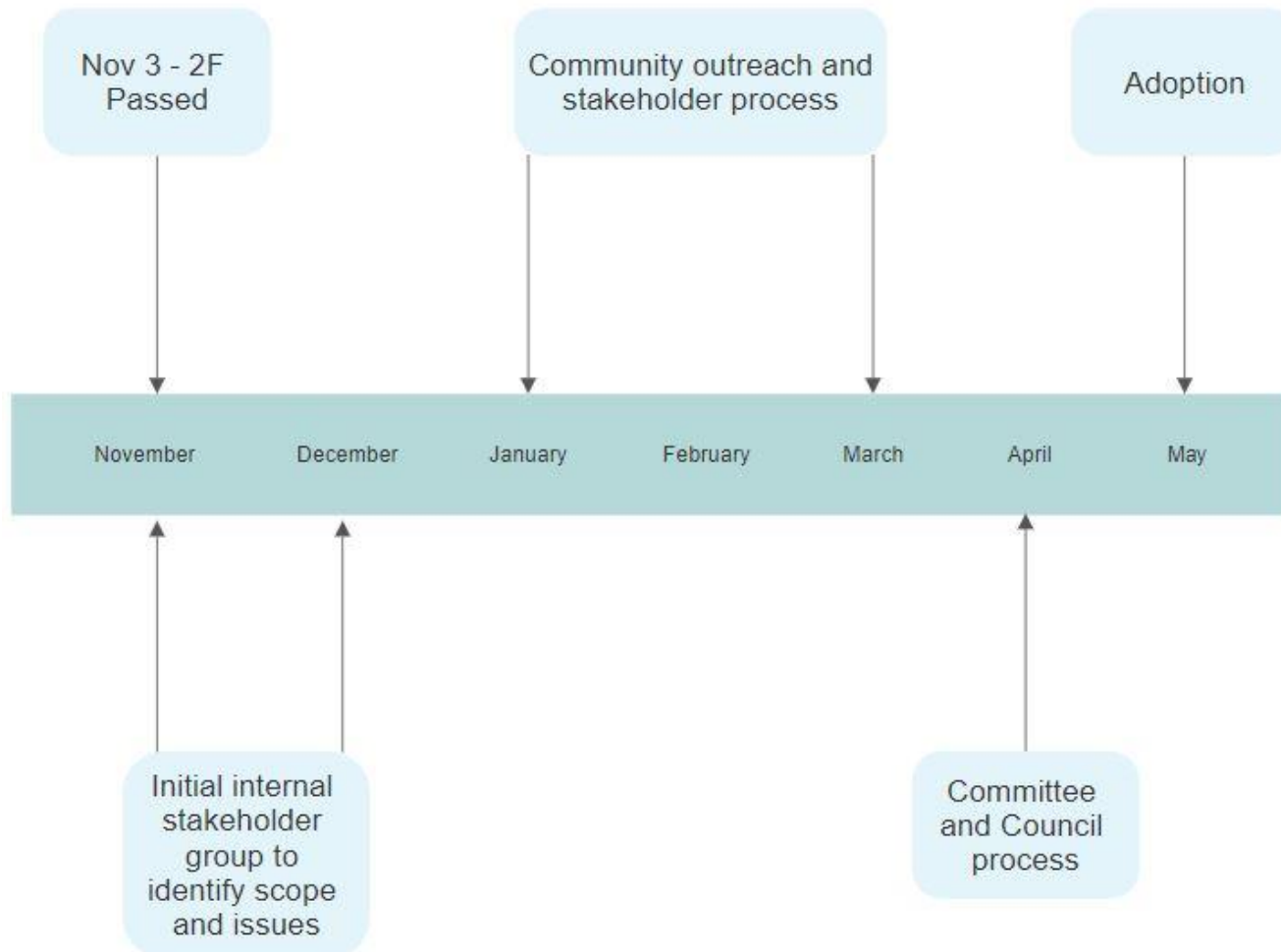
**Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer**  
Denver District 5

# **Denver Remote Meetings Policy**

**2020-2021**



# Timeline





# Working Group Members

- City Council
- Mayor's Office
- Boards & Commissions
- HRCP
- CPD
- Tech Services
- Denver TV8



**DENVER**  
COMMUNITY PLANNING  
& DEVELOPMENT



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# Goals



1. Update Denver's Open Meetings Law
2. Add a Remote Meetings Policy to DRMC
3. Add remote meetings policies to Boards & Commissions Bylaws
4. Create official remote meetings policies for City Council meetings & committees
5. Identify Technology options and services to achieve goal of community accessibility



# Issues Identified

- Who will the law apply to?
- When is the law going to apply?
- How will the law apply?
- What will the “Emergency” look like and who will declare it?
- What will the notice requirements be?
- What kind of technology and connectivity issues do we need to look at?
- What would the cost be to address technology needs?





# Issues Identified (Continued)

- What are the sub-categories of the different meeting groups?
  - Will Council be treated differently than Boards & Commissions?
  - Are Quasi-judicial and Executive Sessions going to be treated the same or differently?
  - Will Charter/Policy Boards be treated the same as Advisory Boards?
- What barriers to entry do we need to address?



# Who Will The Law Apply To?

- City council and committees
- Advisory commission on aging
- Mayor's commission on youth
- Advisory commission on people with disabilities
- Library commission
- Board of public health and environment
- Board of human services
- Board of water commissioners
- Board of equalization
- Board of adjustment-zoning
- Mayor's advisory council
- Landmark preservation commission
- Denver planning board
- Civil service commission
- Career service board
- Board of trustees, firemen's pension fund
- Police pension and relief board
- Building code revision committee
- Community corrections board
- Board of plan enforcement review and variation
- Board of appeals of the building inspection division
- Development review committee
- Health insurance committee
- City-school coordinating committee
- Economic development advisory committee
- Denver cable television board
- Employee deferred compensation committee
- Employee suggestion board
- Employee voluntary salary redirection committee
- Commission on mental health
- Private industry council
- Retirement board
- Rehabilitation advisory panel
- Board of standards
- Urban homesteading program committee
- Denver women's commission
- Stapleton redevelopment advisory committee
- Gay and lesbian advisory task force
- Hispanic advisory task force
- Black advisory task force
- American Indian advisory task force
- Asian advisory task force
- Denver employee medical health care insurance program committee
- Citizen oversight board
- ACCESO-Spanish language voter advisory board
- The housing stability strategic advisors
- The green building technical advisory committee
- Neighborhood improvement and facilities commission
- Commission on art, culture, and film



# When Will The Law Apply?

## Qualifying emergencies include

- A state or local disaster or emergency declared by the Mayor, City Council President or a public health order issued by the Executive Director of the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment.
- Other situations that clearly threaten public health or life that are described in a written request to the Mayor, City Council President or the Executive Director of the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment.







# When will the law apply?

## Quasi-Judicial

Municipality	Remote Quasi-Judicial Hearings	Notes
Aurora	Proceeding	
Boulder	Not Proceeding	
Broomfield	Not Proceeding	
Colorado Springs	Not Proceeding	
Commerce City	Not Proceeding	
Fort Collins	Proceeding	(a)
Longmont	Proceeding	
Loveland	Not Proceeding	
Northglenn	Not Proceeding	(b)
Telluride	Proceeding	(c)
Thornton	Proceeding	
Westminster	Proceeding	
Wheat Ridge	Proceeding	

(a) Only hearings which are “essential/critical to maintaining citizen’s physical and economic health” are currently proceeding.

(b) Individual councilmembers may listen to quasi-judicial hearings remotely but may not vote or participate in any other way.

(c) Hearings are only proceeding with an applicant’s written consent and signed waiver.



# Proposed Stakeholder Outreach

- Councilmember Interviews
- Create a survey to go out to city residents at large: via listservs, newsletters, social media
- 6-part affinity group process, 2-hour targeted session per group
  - 1) Developer, business owners, others affected by Quasi-judicial hearings
  - 2) Disability groups with access problems to technology; unhoused, hearing/sight issues, language access issues
  - 3) Parents with availability, childcare, transportation issues in order to get to the meetings
  - 4) City staff who must be at meetings on different days/times
  - 5) Boards & Commissions members
  - 6) RNO's





# Councilmember Feedback

## Strengths

- Increased accessibility to citizens.
- Greater participation in the legislative process.
- Time and efficacy savings in not having to travel.

## Challenges

- Ease of use and sign-up process for citizens.
- Digital security and legal concerns.
- Order, decorum, norms, and procedures for remote meetings.



# Councilmember Feedback (Continued)

Once the emergency is over, should Council  
return to Chambers?



■ Yes - 6

■ Yes, with concerns - 4

■ No, it should be an option - 2



# Councilmember Feedback (Continued)

Do you think Council should continue with a remote option for the public regardless?



■ Yes - 10 ■ No - 2



# Questions

