



**Written Public Comment Submitted For:
Harbor Commission Budget Subcommittee
Meeting Of April 1, 2022**



From: [Anna Marie Gott](#)
To: [Angela R. Rodriguez](#)
Subject: RE: Public Comment - Harbor Commission
Date: Friday, April 1, 2022 1:01:02 PM

EXTERNAL

Commissioners,

I cannot attend today's meeting in person and had requested a virtual meeting option under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and was denied. I am writing to voice my displeasure that there is no option for this meeting to be accessible to someone with a disability who cannot attend this meeting in person.

First, there are no documents available to review online prior to the meeting. So, the instructions I received instructing me on how I could participate in the meeting, which were to email or call **in advance of the meeting** to make a public comment, are to be blunt insane. How can anyone make an intelligent comment on an item when the only thing available to review is what is written on the agenda when they cannot attend the meeting in person?

Second, under the Brown Act a public agency must make reasonable accommodations for someone with a disability related to public meetings. This is a public meeting where a staff presentation and/or materials will be seen by you and anyone at the meeting but they will not be available to anyone who does not attend the meeting in person. How can this meeting then be accessible to someone with a disability that prevents them from attending this meeting? The answer is they can't be.

Third, even though I requested ADA accommodations for a virtual meeting 4 times because I could not attend this meeting in person. I was never given the option to even call into this meeting despite a media release from the City stating otherwise. So, I find it disheartening that even this accommodation was not even offered to me when I said I could not attend in person meetings. - As an aside, anyone calling into a non-local or 1-800 number would have to pay long distance fees or use their cell phone minutes for those without unlimited minutes. This would then make phone meetings further inaccessible in some cases due to the additional costs involved for someone where an online meeting would be fully accessible for anyone with internet access as plans include unlimited access.

Finally, I am making a simple request to have the Harbor Commission agendize an item for its next meeting. That item would be to authorize hybrid meetings moving forward so that everyone, including those with disabilities, could participate in these meetings online. How? I believe the Harbor Commission has the ability to authorize virtual meetings as it is a Legislative Body. (Virtual meetings might need to be re-authorized monthly.)

Thank you,
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Under Government Code § 54952. a "Legislative body" means:

- (a) The governing body of a local agency or any other local body created by state or federal statute.
- (b) A commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether

permanent or temporary, decision making or advisory, created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body.