

## AGENCY MEETING POLICY

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE. Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the “Open Meetings Law”) contains various provisions providing that, among other things, every meeting of a public body shall be open to the general public (the “Open Meetings”). Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law (the “Remote Access Law”) further provides that a public body may use videoconferencing to conduct an Open Meeting in certain limited circumstances to be outlined and governed by written procedures. The purpose of this Policy is to set forth procedures to implement the Remote Access Law as it applies to Open Meetings conducted by Allegany County Industrial Development Agency (the “Agency”).

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. All words and terms used herein and not defined in the Open Meetings Law and the Remote Access Law shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (the “Act”), unless otherwise defined herein or unless the context or use indicates another meaning or intent. The following words and terms used herein shall have the respective meanings set forth below, unless the context or use indicates another meaning or intent:

“Immediate Family Member” shall mean a spouse, parent, sibling, child, domestic partner, or individual for whom the member is the designated guardian.

“In-Person Meeting” shall mean any Open Meeting of the Agency which is not a Remote Access Meeting.

“Meeting Notice” shall mean the public notice required to be published by the Agency regarding any Open Meeting pursuant to Section 104 of the Open Meetings Law and Section 103-a(2)(f) of the Remote Access Law.

“Non-Public Location” shall mean any remote location from which a member of the Agency participates in a meeting that is (a) not open to the public; and (b) not required to be disclosed in the Meeting Notice.

“Open Meetings Law” shall mean the open meetings law, being Article 7 of the Public Officers Law.

“Public Location” shall mean (a) the Offices of the Agency located at Crossroads Commerce & Conference Center, 6087 State Route 19 North, Belmont, New York; or (b) any other physical location that is (1) open to the general public, and (2) identified on the Meeting Notice.

“Remote Access Law” shall mean Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law.

“Remote Access Meeting” shall mean any Open Meeting of the Agency where a member of the Agency participates in the Open Meeting using videoconferencing from a Non-Public Location.

“Remote Connection” shall mean the process of connecting multiple Public Locations using videoconferencing.

“Sponsoring Municipality” shall mean the County of Allegany, the municipal entity for whose benefit the Agency was created.

SECTION 3. GENERAL RULE. (A) All meetings of the Agency, including public hearings held by the Agency, will be Open Meetings.

(B) Members of the Agency shall be physically present at the Public Location(s) identified in the Meeting Notice unless such member is unable to be physically present due to extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section 4 of this Policy.

(C) A majority of the whole number of the members of the Agency shall be physically present at the Public Location(s) identified in the Meeting Notice to establish a quorum. The Agency must satisfy this quorum requirement whether it conducts an In-Person Meeting or a Remote Access Meeting.

(D) Members of the public shall be permitted to attend, listen and observe all Open Meetings at the Physical Location(s) identified in the Meeting Notice unless the in-person participation requirement is suspended pursuant to Section 103-a(3) of the Remote Access Law.

(E) If the Agency conducts a Remote Access Meeting pursuant to this Policy, except in the case of executive sessions, members of the public shall be permitted to attend and observe the meeting using a videoconferencing service which permits the public to see, hear and identify the members of the Agency attending said meeting.

(F) If the Agency conducts a Remote Access Meeting pursuant to this Policy, the Agency shall use the videoconferencing technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pursuant to Section 103-a(5) of the Remote Access Law.

(G) Nothing herein shall prohibit the Agency from holding meetings entirely by videoconference, with no in-person requirement, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor of the State of New York pursuant to Section 28 of the Executive Law or by the appropriate officials of the Sponsoring Municipality pursuant to Section 24 of the Executive Law if the Agency determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the Agency to hold an In-Person Meeting.

SECTION 4. REMOTE ACCESS MEETINGS. (A) The Agency may, at its discretion, conduct a Remote Access Meeting and permit a member or member(s) to participate in the meeting from a Non-Public Location using videoconferencing provided that (a) a quorum of

members are present in the identified Physical Location(s); and (b) the member is unable to be physically present at such meeting due to extraordinary circumstances including, but not limited to:

- (1) disability;
- (2) illness, including but not limited to compliance with applicable quarantine requirements;
- (3) the death of an Immediate Family Member;
- (4) caregiving responsibilities for an Immediate Family Member;
- (5) any other significant or unexpected factor that may preclude physical attendance; and
- (6) other significant or unexpected factors or events which shall be identified by the Agency in subsequent amendments to this Policy.

(B) A member who wishes to participate in a meeting by videoconference must provide advance notice and justification for such member's absence to the extent possible to both the Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency. The Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency may require any member requesting to participate in a meeting by videoconference to provide documentation, to the extent possible, supporting such request and may publicly confirm that such documentation was received without publicly stating the contents of such documentation.

SECTION 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Members of the public shall only be permitted to participate in meetings of the Agency where (a) the Agency invites public comment, or (b) public comment is required by law. Where the public is permitted to participate, the Agency shall permit public comment pursuant to the operating rules on the attached Appendix A. If public participation is permitted at a Remote Access Meeting, the Agency shall ensure that members of the public have equal opportunity to participate in real time in such meetings whether attending in-person or remotely via videoconference.

SECTION 6. REMOTE ACCESS MEETING MINUTES. If the Agency conducts a Remote Access Meeting, the minutes of such meeting shall (a) include which, if any, members participated remotely, (b) be available to the public within two weeks from the date of such meeting, and (c) be posted on the Agency's website within two weeks from the date of such meeting. For purposes of this requirement, (I) unabridged video recordings or unabridged audio recordings or unabridged written transcripts may be deemed to be meeting minutes; and (II) this requirement shall not require the creation of minutes if the Agency (or committee) would not otherwise take them.

SECTION 7. MEETING NOTICE. The Agency shall give notice to the public and the news media of all meetings of the Agency pursuant to the requirements of Section 104 of the

Open Meetings Law and Section 103-a(2)(f) of the Remote Access Law. The Meeting Notice shall include the following information:

- (a) the date and time the meeting is scheduled;
- (b) the Public Location where the meeting will be held;
- (c) the Public Location(s) where members will be participating using Remote Connection;
- (d) whether any members will be participating using Remote Access;
- (e) where the public can view and/or participate in such meeting whether in-person or remotely; and
- (f) where required documents and records will be posted or available.

SECTION 8. MEETING RECORDS. The Agency shall ensure that (a) each meeting shall be streamed on its website in real time, (b) each meeting shall be recorded, (c) such recordings are posted or linked on the public website of the Agency within five business days following such meeting, and (d) such recordings remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter, pursuant to Section 103-a(2)(g) of the Remote Access Law and Section 857 of the Act. The Agency shall further ensure that recordings of any Remote Access Meetings are transcribed upon request.

SECTION 9. POSTING. This Policy shall be conspicuously posted on the Agency's website.

06-09-2022: The Agency Meeting Policy was adopted, by a vote of 5-0, by the ACIDA Board, on 06-09-2022, Resolution 0622-02.

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APPENDIX A

PUBLIC COMMENT OPERATING PROCEDURES

[To Be Inserted When Completed]