



City of Arts & Innovation

BOARD OF ETHICS

TO: THE BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: October 7, 2021

FROM: CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON THE BROWN ACT - CALIFORNIA'S OPEN MEETING LAW

ISSUES:

That Board of Ethics receive and file a presentation from the City Attorney's Office on the Brown Act, also known as California's Open Meeting Law.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Ethics receive and file a presentation from the City Attorney's Office on the Brown Act, also known as California's Open Meeting Law.

BACKGROUND:

The Brown Act was enacted in 1953 and is codified in the California Government Code, section 54950, et seq. In general, the Brown Act requires the deliberations and actions of California's public agency governing boards, commissions and councils be taken openly and in public.

The City Attorney's Office has prepared a presentation to present to the Board reviewing the requirements of the Brown Act, also known as California's Open Meeting Law.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The presentation regarding the Brown Act, also known as California's Open Meeting Law, supports the priorities of the City of Riverside's Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan, by contributing to Strategic Priority No. 5 High Performing Government by supporting the following:

Goal 5.3– Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The purpose of the Board of Ethics is to advise and make recommendations to the City Council on all matters pertaining to the adoption, revision, administration, and enforcement of the Code of Ethics and Conduct (as set forth in RMC Chapter 2.78) and to conduct hearings upon complaints brought under that code section. A presentation to the Board of Ethics on the Brown Act, also known as California's Open

Meeting Law, ensures that the Board is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards and Commissions, and timely and reliable information.

2. **Equity** – A presentation to the Board of Ethics on the Brown Act, also known as California’s Open Meeting Law, ensures that the Board and every member of the community has equal access to share in the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – A presentation to the Board of Ethics on the Brown Act, also known as California’s Open Meeting Law, ensures that the public is informed about how the City of Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City’s financial resources while providing quality public services to all.
4. **Innovation** – A presentation to the Board of Ethics on the Brown Act, also known as California’s Open Meeting Law, ensures that the public is informed about how the City of Riverside is inventive and timely in meeting the community’s changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – A presentation to the Board of Ethics on the Brown Act, also known as California’s Open Meeting Law, ensures that the public is informed that the City of Riverside is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City of Riverside’s capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for this presentation.

Prepared by: Susan Wilson, Assistant City Attorney
Approved by: Al Zelinka, City Manager
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation