Agenda Item No: 3.a

PLACENTIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 16, 2026

Submitted by: Brooke Lovell

From: City Clerk

Subject:
ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL POLICY NO. 136 - TECHNOLOGICAL DISRUPTION DURING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Financial Impact:
None.

Summary:
Senate Bill 707 (2025) amended the Ralph M. Brown Act to require all eligible legislative bodies, including the Placentia City Council, to provide two-way remote public participation beginning July 1, 2026, and to adopt a formal policy describing how disruptions to telephonic or internet services will be handled during public meetings.

Proposed City Council Policy No. 136 establishes the procedures the City will follow in the event of a disruption to services preventing members of the public from listening, observing, or participating remotely in a City Council meeting. The policy outlines the steps taken by the Presiding Officer, City Clerk, and Staff when a disruption occurs; requires good-faith efforts to restore service; and clarifies how and when the City Council may recess, reconvene, or continue its meeting if remote access remains unavailable.

Adoption of Policy No. 136 ensures compliance with SB 707 and helps maintain transparency, operational consistency, and accessibility during technological interruptions.

Recommended Action:
It is recommended that the City Council:
Adopt City Council Policy No. 136 - Technological Disruption During City Council Meetings, effective July 1, 2026, in order to comply with SB 707.

Strategic Plan Statement:
This item supports Strategic Plan Goal No. 5: Organizational Excellence, by promoting transparent, consistent, and compliant public meeting procedures. The policy strengthens internal processes and ensures the City can maintain accessibility and continuity of government even during technological disruptions.

Discussion:
SB 707 requires the City Council to adopt a written policy describing how the City will respond

when a disruption in telephonic or internet service prevents the public from participating remotely. These requirements take effect July 1, 2026, and apply only to meetings of the City Council.

Policy No. 136 provides a clear response framework. When a disruption occurs, the Presiding Officer will announce the issue and recess the meeting while Staff works to restore service. The City Council may continue any properly noticed closed session during this period. Good-faith restoration efforts may include troubleshooting equipment or software, attempting alternative connections, contacting technical support, or using backup systems.

If service is restored within one hour, the meeting will resume as normal. If not, the Council may either adjourn or continue the meeting after adopting the required Brown Act finding that good-faith efforts were made and that continuing the meeting serves the public interest. The policy also directs the Clerk to record the disruption, restoration efforts, and City Council actions in the meeting minutes.

The policy aligns with current operational capabilities and maintains flexibility for Staff to use the most appropriate restoration methods based on the circumstances. It also reflects best practices observed in other jurisdictions preparing for SB 707 implementation.

Financial Summary:
None.

Attachments
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