

Authority: City Council Item EX3.7, adopted as amended, by City of Toronto Council on March 29, 30 and 31, 2023  
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on March 31, 2023

## CITY OF TORONTO

### BY-LAW 274-2023

**To amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, and Chapter 19, Business Improvement Areas, to enable remote electronic participation in Council and Council Committee meetings, and in Business Improvement Area board meetings beyond the period of one year after the termination of the COVID-19 emergency declaration.**

Whereas subsection 189(4) of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 permits a member of city council or a local board to participate electronically in a meeting; and

Whereas subsection 189(4.2) of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 permits a member of city council or a local board to participate electronically in a meeting to be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present and to participate electronically in a meeting that is closed to the public; and

Whereas Council allowed itself the ability to hold meetings electronically for a period ending one year after the declaration of emergency related to COVID-19 was lifted and Council wishes to continue to allow itself to hold meetings electronically after this period ends and has authorized amendments to City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, to enable remote electronic participation in Council and Council Committee meetings to continue; and

Whereas Council also allowed local boards, including local boards governed by City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 19, Business Improvement Areas, to hold meetings electronically for a period ending one year after the declaration of emergency related to COVID-19 was lifted and Council has authorized amendments to City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 19, Business Improvement Areas, to enable remote electronic participation in Business Improvement Area board meetings to continue;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, is amended as follows:
  - A. Subsection 4.5 is amended by adding the following as a new subsection F:
    - F. Public presenters permitted to participate electronically.  
  
Public presenters are permitted to participate electronically in a manner as determined by the City Clerk at a meeting held in accordance with § 27-5.16.
  - B. Subsections 5.13A and B are amended by deleting the words "15 minutes" and replacing them with the words "30 minutes".

C. Section 5.16 is deleted and replaced with the following:

**§ 27-5.16. Electronic Participation in Meetings.**

- A. Despite any other provision of this Chapter, Council and Committees may hold a meeting where some or all of the members participate electronically; and
- B. Where a meeting is being held in accordance with this section:
  - (a) any member participating in the meeting electronically to be deemed present for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present under § 27-5.12A, and for the purposes of voting on any matter put to a vote under § 27 12.2A, and for all other purposes;
  - (b) any member participating in the meeting electronically to be entitled to participate in any portion of the meeting closed to the public in accordance with § 27-5.15; and
  - (c) this Chapter shall apply with any other minor modifications as may be required.

2. Schedule B, Business Improvement Area Board of Management Procedures, of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 19, Business Improvement Areas, is amended by deleting section 4.1 and replacing it with the following as a new section 4.1:

- A. A Board may hold a meeting where some or all of the Directors participate electronically; and
- B. Where a meeting is being held in accordance with subsection A:
  - (1) Any Director participating in the meeting electronically shall be deemed present for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present under § 19-3.10 of Chapter 19, Business Improvement Areas, and for the purposes of voting on any matter put to a vote under section 5, and for all other purposes.
  - (2) Any Director participating in the meeting electronically shall be entitled to participate in any portion of the meeting closed to the public.

Enacted and passed on April 3, 2023.

Frances Nunziata,  
Speaker

John D. Elvidge,  
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)