By: Lori Ann Feibel

A resolution to urge Governor DeWine and the Ohio Legislature to extend the deadline for operating public meetings electronically.

WHEREAS, on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 197, which includes a provision to: *allow state boards and commissions, local & county governments, and higher education boards to operate meetings electronically during the declared emergency but not beyond December 1, 2020, so long as the public is aware and can participate electronically; and* 

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2020, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine called the virus a "red tide going all the way across Ohio", with approximately 29 Counties in Ohio currently at Level 3 – Very High Risk of exposure; and

WHEREAS, with the increase of the COVID-19 cases and the deadline of December 01, 2020 quickly approaching there is an immediate need to address the safety and security of our Ohio communities by extending this deadline, and

WHEREAS, it has been announced that Senator Fedor has introduced SB 365 to extend this deadline, which is a step in the right direction to preserve the health, safety and general welfare of all Ohioans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

**Section 1.** This Council and Mayor hereby urges Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Legislature to approve an extension of the operation of public meetings to take place in an electronic setting until the Emergency is lifted.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

Passed: 11-10-20

Lori Ann Feibel, President of Council

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William Harvey, Clerk of Council

Approved: Nov. 10, 2020

Benjamin J. Kessler, Mayor

First Reading – 11-10-20

Second Reading - Suspended
Third Reading - Adapted