

James Prendergast Library
Procedures for Board Member Videoconferencing
Pursuant to Public Officers Law § 103-a

In compliance with Public Officers Law (POL) § 103-a(2)(a), the James Prendergast Library, following a public hearing, authorized by resolution on December 15, 2022 the use of videoconferencing as described in POL § 103-a.

The following procedures are hereby established to satisfy the requirement of POL § 103-a(2)(b) that any public body which in its discretion wishes to permit its board members to participate in meetings by videoconferencing from private locations – under extraordinary circumstances – must establish written procedures governing board member and public attendance.

1. James Prendergast Library board members shall be physically present at any meeting of the James Prendergast Library unless such board member is unable to be physically present at one of the designated public meeting locations due to extraordinary circumstances.

2. For purposes of these procedures, the term “extraordinary circumstances” includes disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the board member’s physical attendance at such meeting.

3. If a board member is unable to be physically present at one of the designated public meeting locations and wishes to participate by videoconferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances, the board member must notify the Board of Trustees President no later than four business days prior to the scheduled meeting in order for proper notice to the public to be given. If extraordinary circumstances present themselves on an emergent basis within four days of a meeting, the James Prendergast Library shall update its notice as soon as practicable to include that information. If it is not practicable for the Board of Trustees to update its notice, the James Prendergast Library may reschedule its meeting.

4. If there is a quorum of board members participating at a physical location(s) open to the public, the James Prendergast Library may properly convene a meeting. A board member who is participating from a remote location that is not open to in-person physical attendance by the public *shall not* count toward a quorum of the James Prendergast Library but may participate and vote if there is a quorum of board members at a physical location(s) open to the public.

5. Except in the case of executive sessions conducted pursuant to POL § 105, the James Prendergast Library shall ensure that its board members can be heard, seen, and identified while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon. This shall include the use of first and last name placards physically placed in front of the board members or, for board members participating by videoconferencing from private locations due to extraordinary circumstances, such board members must ensure that their full first and last name appears on their videoconferencing screen.

6. The minutes of the meetings involving videoconferencing based on extraordinary circumstances pursuant to POL § 103-a shall include which, if any, board members participated by videoconferencing from a private location due to such extraordinary circumstances.

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7. The public notice for the meeting shall inform the public: (i) that extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing will (or may) be used, (ii) where the public can view and/or participate in such meeting, (iii) where required documents and records will be posted or available, and (iv) the physical location(s) for the meeting where the public can attend.

8. The James Prendergast Library shall provide that each open portion of any meeting conducted using extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing shall be recorded and such recordings posted or linked on the James Prendergast Library website within five business days following the meeting, and shall remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter. Such recordings shall be transcribed upon request.

9. If board members of the James Prendergast Library are authorized to participate by videoconferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances, the James Prendergast Library shall provide the opportunity for members of the public to view such meeting by video, and to participate in proceedings by videoconference in real time where public comment or participation is authorized. The James Prendergast Library shall ensure that where extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing is used, it authorizes the same public participation or testimony as in person participation or testimony.

10. Open meetings of the James Prendergast Library conducted using extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing pursuant to the provisions of POL § 103-a shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and corresponding guidelines. For the purposes of this guideline, "disability" shall have the meaning defined in Executive Law § 292.

11. The in-person participation requirements of POL § 103-a(2)(c) shall not apply during a [state disaster emergency declared by the governor pursuant to Executive Law § 28 or a local state of emergency proclaimed by the chief executive of a county, city, village or town pursuant to § 24 of the Executive Law] if the James Prendergast Library determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the James Prendergast Library to hold an in-person meeting.

12. These procedures shall be conspicuously posted on the James Prendergast Library website.