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# MENLO PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## STAFF REPORT

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**TO: Board of Directors**

**MEETING DATE: May 20, 2025**

**FROM: Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen**

**PREPARED BY: Fire Chief Lorenzen**

**ITEM: REINSTATE PUBLIC COMMENT VIA ZOOM DURING DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors:

1. Accept the report as presented; and
2. Reinstate public comment via Zoom during District public meetings.

### **BACKGROUND**

As a result of the COVID crisis, Board meetings began being held virtually, and public comment was also allowed via this method. During this period, many public agencies experienced what was known as “Zoom bombing” from anonymous commenters with divisive, sometimes offensive, and inappropriate comments. The Fire District Board acted to prevent this by eliminating remote public comment and only allowing for public comment in person.

At the April 15, 2025, Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved adding an item to the agenda to reinstate public comment via Zoom.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.