MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Shoshanah Bewlay
Executive Director, Committee on Open Government

RE: Amendments to the Open Meetings Law Relating to Videoconferencing

DATE: April 11, 2022

On April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 relating to the New York State budget for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year. See Senate Bill 8006-C/Assembly Bill 9006-C. Included in the bill is Part WW, an amendment to the Open Meetings Law to make permanent (until July 1, 2024) the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, in very limited circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency.

Our staff is currently reviewing the details of the bill and will provide written guidance on our website regarding its requirements as soon as possible. Until then, however, it is important to note that the law permits public bodies to continue to hold remote meetings in the same manner as described in Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2022 for a period of 60 days after its effective date, or until June 8, 2022.