

Neighborhood Council Code of Civility

(Version 2 - Condensed)

Collectively and individually, the members of the Board of Directors of the _____ Neighborhood Council agree to abide by a Code of Civility to ensure that our Neighborhood Council's business is conducted in a respectful and courteous manner, and in a way that will generate respect and credibility for our Neighborhood Council.

The freedom to express one's views about public matters is a cornerstone of the democratic process. The _____ Neighborhood Council welcomes the diverse views and opinions of our other board members and stakeholders as they relate to the issues before us. In order for these discussions to be meaningful and effective, we must treat others with respect and dignity.

By adoption of this motion, and by affixing our signatures to this document, we collectively and individually agree to abide by our Code of Civility to the best of our abilities.

1. I will conduct myself in a professional and civil manner at all times as a representative of the _____ Neighborhood Council, including treating each member of the board and members of the public with respect at all times.

2. Even in the face of disagreement or differences of opinion, I will demonstrate esteem and deference for my colleagues and the public. During Neighborhood Council meetings, functions, or events I will not engage in or threaten to engage in any verbal or physical attack on any other individual. I will not use language that is abusive, threatening, obscene, or slanderous, including using profanities, insults, or other disparaging remarks or gestures. I believe that derogatory language about an individual's ethnicity, race, sexuality, age, disability, or religion is not acceptable.

3. I will promote and enforce a safe meeting environment at all times. At moments when members of the public become disruptive and violate the rules of civility that we have pledged to follow, I will join my fellow board members in demanding that the persons conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner even if I agree with the point of view that is being expressed.

3. I will commit to communicate my ideas and points of view clearly, and allow others to do the same without interruption. I pledge to truly listen to and hear other points of view. I will practice the art of being able to disagree without being disagreeable.

4. I will take responsibility for my own actions, and will work to fulfill my role and responsibilities as specified in the bylaws

5. I will commit to learn the applicable laws that govern Neighborhood Councils, including bylaws, standing rules, meeting procedures, the Brown Act, conflict of interest laws, city ordinances, and the City Charter, and will not knowingly violate any of them so that we can maintain a safe and effective environment for conducting business.

6. I will seek to present information truthfully, and will not knowingly misrepresent, mischaracterize, or misquote information received from others.
7. If I find myself representing my personal interests before my community's interests, I will publicly disclose the differences and recuse myself from voting on such matters, and I will ask for advice from the Office of the City Attorney whenever I have doubts.
8. I will commit to good faith efforts to resolve grievances that come before the board as specified in the bylaws.
9. Out of respect to my fellow board members, the public, and the decision-makers who we are trying to influence, I will make the best possible effort to understand the issues before me.

(Civility/Code of Civility 2– DRAFT.doc).