

SAMPLE CIVILITY RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN THE [CITY/TOWN] OF [NAME]

Whereas, the [I/we/governing body] recognizes that civility is the steadfast practice of respect, even in disagreement; and

Whereas civility fosters constructive dialogue and connection, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person; and

Whereas, Civility isn't passive politeness; It is characterized by actively listening, seeking areas of commonality, bridging divides, and respecting differences with dignity when they cannot be resolved; and

Whereas, robust dialogue that includes respectful consideration of all viewpoints is key to a thriving democracy; and

Whereas, it is imperative to cultivate an environment of mutual respect and cooperation within our city/town, to ensure the well-being of all its inhabitants and the efficacy of our governance; and

Whereas, as elected officials entrusted with the responsibility of representing all our constituents, we have a duty to lead by example in promoting civility and fostering an atmosphere conducive to respectful dialogue and collaboration;

Now, Therefore, [I/we/governing body] hereby commit to engage in civil discourse; We commit to communicating respectfully, even in disagreement, avoiding personal attacks and inflammatory language and commit(s) to the following behaviors that support civility:

1. **Listen as intently as you speak** by active listening and confirming what I hear to ensure understanding.
2. **Focus on issues, not individuals** by disagreeing with ideas, not the person.
3. **Distinguish between fact and opinion** by seeking clarity on both to understand the fundamental points of difference.
4. **Get curious instead of furious** by managing my emotions in the moment and asking questions with the intent of learning.
5. **Acknowledge knowledge** by appreciating others' contributions and embracing a continuous learning mindset.
6. **Own your intentions and your impact** by recognizing our words and actions may not reflect our intent to those receiving them.
7. **Seek common ground** by building bridges and prioritizing shared values and goals.
8. **Be a role model** by encouraging each other to practice these principles and courteously challenging disrespectful behavior.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Mayor

Councilmember/Commissioner

Councilmember/Commissioner

Councilmember/Commissioner

Councilmember/Commissioner

Councilmember/Commissioner

Councilmember/Commissioner

ATTEST:

[City/Town] Clerk