

TALKING POINTS ---

City of Culver City Recommended Civil Discourse Guidelines

(December 13, 2022)

- **What are “Civil Discourse Guidelines”?**

Civil Discourse Guidelines are recommended individual behaviors and attitudes that significantly increase the likelihood that mutually satisfactory outcomes will be realized by discussion/debate participants, especially when issues are contentious.

- **Why Were the Civil Discourse Guidelines Developed?**

The City’s Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC) developed the Guidelines to help create a culture of civility in the interactions among government officials, between the members of the community and their government, and among members of the community of Culver City.

- **Why are the Civil Discourse Guidelines “Recommended” Rather than “Required”?**

The Civil Discourse Guidelines are recommended, not required, for two reasons. First, when discussion participants choose to follow the recommended Guidelines, it is because they want and expect to achieve outcomes that are mutually satisfactory. Second, if discussion participants were required to follow the Guidelines, monitoring and enforcement would be necessary; in the view of the EHRAC, this would be counterproductive and not foster a culture of civility.

- **How Were the Civil Discourse Guidelines Developed?**

The City of Culver City retained the services of The Institute for Civility in Government during December 2021 to conduct a half day training about civil discourse for members of the EHRAC and the public, and to facilitate a half day workshop for members of the EHRAC and the public to begin to develop civil discourse guidelines for the City of Culver City.

From January to August 2022, the Ad Hoc Civil Discourse Guidelines Sub Committee of the EHRAC, the full EHRAC and members of the public worked to develop Recommended Civil Discourse Guidelines for the City of Culver City.

The City Council of the City of Culver City adopted Recommended Civil Discourse Guidelines for the City in September 2022, and directed that the Guidelines be provided to City Council members, all City Boards/Commissions/Committees and the public.

- **How are the Recommended Civil Discourse Guidelines to be implemented in the City of Culver City?**

Members of the EHRAC have requested time on the agendas of the City's Boards/Commissions/Committees to present the Guidelines and to discuss ways to incorporate the Guidelines into the Boards/Commissions/Committees meetings. We suggest the following to chairpersons and members:

1. Attach the Guidelines to the meeting agenda before the meeting;
2. At the beginning of each meeting, the chair and/or another designated member read the Guidelines or a portion of the Guidelines aloud;

3. In addition, the chair and members may want to briefly discuss one of the Guidelines during your meeting.

Work is underway with City staff to incorporate review of the Guidelines into appropriate annual trainings for members of the City Council and all Board/Commission/Committee members.

The EHRAC will undertake to provide the Guidelines to the public and community organizations by the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2023.