

RESOLUTION NUMBER 10642 (CCS)

(City Council Series)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA ENDORSING STANDARDS OF  
BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, a majority of Americans believe that our society is increasingly uncivil and that this problem is particularly acute and particularly detrimental in national, state and local political arenas, where it threatens government's ability to function democratically and effectively; and

WHEREAS, across the nation, many groups have adopted policies and rules to enhance civility at public meetings, including the United States Conference of Mayors, which adopted a Civility Accord; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with this national trend, many cities have approved policies to promote civility at local, public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the defining characteristics of the City of Santa Monica include its commitment to the democratic process, individual rights of expression, robust debate and tolerance for disparate views; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica City Council, the City's boards and commissions, other public bodies, and various community groups all convene public meetings to address controversial issues that engender passionate and often conflicting opinions; and

WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect at these meetings can stifle participation and debate, threaten the quality of decisions, and undermine the local democratic process; and

WHEREAS, adopting principles of civility applicable to all public meetings will help ensure that civic engagement and local democracy continue to flourish in Santa Monica.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

In order to safeguard participatory democracy in Santa Monica, all persons attending public meetings in Santa Monica should strive to:

1. Treat everyone courteously;
2. Listen to others respectfully;
3. Exercise self-control;
4. Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints;
5. Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate;

6. Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights, inherent components of an inclusive public process, and tools for forging sound decisions.

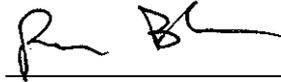
Be It Further Resolved, that the City Council, all City Boards and Commissions, and City staff shall promote the use of and adherence to these guidelines for behavior at all public meetings within the City.

SECTION 1. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
MARSHA JONES MOUTRIE  
City Attorney

Adopted and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.



Richard Bloom, Mayor

I, Denise Anderson-Warren, Acting City Clerk of the City of Santa Monica, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 10642 (CCS) was duly adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica City Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Councilmembers:	Holbrook, McKeown, O'Connor, Shriver Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Mayor Bloom
Noes:	Councilmembers:	None
Absent:	Councilmembers:	O'Day

ATTEST:

  
Denise Anderson-Warren  
Denise Anderson-Warren, Acting City Clerk