

Purpose

The purpose of the City of Columbia Heights' social media presence is to provide members of the community with information in more places and more ways than were traditionally available. All content of this site is public and is subject to disclosure pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Please be aware that anything you post may survive deletion, whether by you or others. Do not post sensitive or personally identifiable information, such as social security numbers.

Policy

Under its Communications Department, the City of Columbia Heights will determine, at its discretion, how its social media resources will be designed, implemented and managed as part of its overall communications and marketing strategy. City-related social media accounts may be modified or removed at any time and without notice as further described in this document.

We believe that honest, civil and productive discussions provide the best environment for residents to understand the work of their government and participate in constructive engagement. That's why we ask users to consider that our social media accounts may be viewed by children and other impressionable people. Users should avoid profanity, personal attacks, bullying or use of incorrect information.

Following or "friending" persons or organizations is not an endorsement by the City and is only intended as a means of broadening communication. The City is not responsible for content found at links to third parties, nor the views or opinions expressed by third-party comments.

Content Moderation

The City's social media accounts are created and maintained as limited public forums under federal case law pertaining to the First Amendment to the U.S Constitution. The City invites members of the public to view and, where possible, provide comments or other engagement on its social media accounts. However, the law permits the City to hide and/or delete comments that are not protected speech under the First Amendment and relevant federal case law. The City will not hide or delete comments solely because such comments are critical of the organization, its officials or its employees.

At the discretion of the social media manager, comments could be turned off on select posts since social media platforms are used to share content that is purely informational and the City does not tend to seek feedback through social media unless noted otherwise.

Please be advised that comments falling into the following category or categories may be removed:

- Obscene or pornographic content
- Direct threats to persons or property
- Comments that directly promote or advocate for the City to illegally discriminate based on race, age, religion, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, veteran

status or any other legally protected class if such comments violate local, state or federal law.

- Material asserted to violate the intellectual property of another person
- Private, personal information about a person published without his/her consent
- Information that endangers the public by compromising a public safety security system
- Statutorily private, confidential, or nonpublic data
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Hyperlinks to material that falls into at least one of the foregoing categories

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