



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Administrative Draft of a City Civility Pledge to add to the City's Code of Conduct and Meeting Agendas

CEQA: Not a Project.

Recommendation: That Council 1) consider and approve the proposed Civility Pledge; and 2) direct staff to update the City's Code of Conduct and meeting agendas to include a Civility Pledge.

Prepared by: Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: March 26, 2024

Date Prepared: March 20, 2024

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: From contentious City Council meetings to personal attacks on social media, the idea of keeping things civil in local government has become more difficult over the years. As communities become increasingly divided over political or cultural lines and continue to grapple with the pandemic's economic impacts, there is a growing call to keep conversations respectful and professional. For this reason, the Municipal Association of South Carolina, and the Illinois Municipal League amongst others, have developed Civility Pledges to engage in civil behavior with each other as well as with residents and meeting attendees. Civility Pledges focuses on the idea that all people have the right to be treated with respect, courtesy, and openness. We value all input. We commit to conduct ourselves at all times with civility and courtesy to each other. Some cities also have a civility pledge that can be published or recited at meetings.

In September 2023, the Council instructed staff to create a Civility Pledge following guidance provided during the City Council Meeting. However, due to staffing changes and holiday schedules, the process has taken longer than anticipated to assemble an administrative draft for City Council's review, feedback, and adoption. Enclosed is the proposed Civility Pledge for City Council's consideration.

We kindly request any feedback and approval of the proposed Civility Pledge, along with authorization to integrate it into the relevant documents.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #5 - High Performance Government and Quality Service.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact in creating a Civility Pledge

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: N/A

Reviewed by: Tim Kiser, City Manager

Attachments: N/A