



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Updating the City's Code of Conduct and Meeting Agendas to reflect Civility Pledge

CEQA: Not a Project.

Recommendation: That Council consider and provide direction to staff on updating the City's Code of Conduct and meeting agendas to include a Civility Pledge.

Prepared by: Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Date Prepared: September 7, 2023

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.

Following are a couple of samples from other jurisdictions across the nation:

"In the interest of civility, I pledge to promote civility by listening, being respectful of others, acknowledging that we are all striving to support and improve our community and understanding that we each have different ideas for achieving that objective."

"I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my City."

Staff is looking for direction on whether the City should move forward with creating a Civility Pledge and incorporate the pledge into the appropriate 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