



CODE OF CIVILITY

City of Annapolis

Council, Committees, Commissions & Boards

Members of the Council, Committees, Commissions or Boards shall always endeavor to act politely, calmly, and reasonably during all discussion and debate.

There shall be no personal attacks, name-calling or harassment of colleagues, attendees or participants.

During public hearings or periods for public comment, Council, Committees, Commission or Board members shall not engage in debate with speakers or members of the audience.

While working toward the will of the majority, members shall respect the rights of the minority and recognize the importance of achieving consensus.

All staff shall be treated professionally, courteously, and in a dignified manner at all times.

Members shall demonstrate esteem and deference when disagreement or differences of opinion arise.

Under no circumstance shall members engage in or threaten to commit any physical attack on any other individual.

Members and the public shall not use abusive, obscene, or slanderous language, including profanity, insults or other disparaging and inappropriate remarks or gestures.

Members shall not exhibit conduct that disturbs the order of the public meeting or presents the City government and its employees in a disfavorable light.

The presiding officer, addressed as "Chair," is responsible for maintaining order, and debate must be directed only at the Chair. Members and the public should honor the Chair's role. Objections about the agenda or the Chair's actions shall be voiced politely using the rules of procedure.

General Public Attending Meetings

The general public may attend any open session of the City Council or any committee, commission or board.

Members of the public are allowed to speak during public comment times or when invited by the body or the Chair, acting on behalf of the body.

All remarks from audience members shall be respectful and courteous, free of name-calling and personal attacks. Profanity, combative and other inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

All statements in public hearings should relate to the subject matter of the hearing, and the speaker shall wait until called upon to speak.

Appropriate time limits may be established for speakers and enforced by the Chair respectfully and judiciously.

Visual demonstrations designed to disrupt proceedings are prohibited.

The Chair may order any person who violates these rules to be removed and may request police assistance to restore order.

The Chair may recess the session while order is being restored.