

## RESOLUTION NO. 2020-62

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH GOVERNING RULES OF DECORUM AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, a many 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;

WHEREAS, across the nation many groups have adopted policies and rules to enhance civility and decorum at public meetings;

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

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

WHEREAS, the Huntington Beach City Council, the City's Boards and Commissions, other public bodies and various community groups all convene public meetings to address controversial issue that engender passionate and often conflicting opinions;

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 rules of decorum applicable to all public meetings will help ensure that civic engagement and local democracy continue to flourish in Huntington Beach.

The City Council of the City of Huntington Beach does hereby resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. General Guidelines. The City has numerous public meetings such as City Council Meetings, Commission Meetings, Board Meetings, etc. (hereinafter "Public Meetings"). In order to safeguard participatory democracy in Huntington Beach, City Staff, City elected officials, members of City Boards, Commissions, Committees, and task forces attending Public Meetings in Huntington Beach should treat others civilly, respectfully, professionally, courteously and focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate.

SECTION 2. The City Council and City staff shall comply with any lawful order of the Presiding Officer to enforce the Rules of Decorum.

SECTION 4. The City Council, all City Boards and Commissions, and City staff shall promote the use of and adhere to these guidelines for behavior at all public meetings within the City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting thereof held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Mayor

INITIATED AND APPROVED:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Manager

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*Min Uyls*  
City Attorney *mu*