

**RESOLUTION PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE
CIVILITY IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM**

WHEREAS, the City of Winston-Salem Mayor and City Council, the governing body of Winston-Salem, North Carolina (the "Municipality"), recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance;

WHEREAS, the mayor and city council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the members of the City Council, as elected representatives of the community and stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, city council meetings are open to the public and thus how City officials execute their legal duties is on public display; and

WHEREAS, civility by City officials in the execution of their legislative duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness and thoughtfulness between City officials, avoiding personal ill will which results in actions being directed to issues made in the best interests of residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials presents an opportunity to set a positive example of conduct and promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of legislative issues, resulting in better public policy and a more informed electorate while also encouraging civil behavior between residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials is possible if each member of the elected body remembers that they represent not only themselves, but the constituents of their district and city; and

WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the city council has determined to adopt this resolution.

Winston-Salem City Council
APPROVED
April 7, 2025

WHEREAS, at least 75% of the city council has completed the NCLM Commit to Civility program requirements and commit to uphold the nine pillars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS: The City of Winston-Salem pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body.

The elected officials of the City of Winston-Salem enact this civility 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 the City of Winston-Salem.

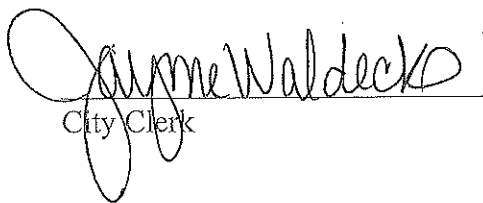
This pledge strives to ensure that all communication be open, honest, and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online or in written communication, especially when we disagree.

This pledge strives to ensure mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success and demonstrates the city council's commitment to respect different opinions, by inviting and considering different perspectives, allowing space for ideas to be expressed, debated, opposed, and clarified in a constructive manner.

ADOPTED this 7 day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:


City Clerk



Sample Pledge:

Our opinions and views make us each uniquely different. In understanding this, promoting civility by actively listening, being respectful of others, and acknowledging that we are all striving to support and improve our community even if that consists of different ideas for achieving that objective. Our collective efforts in ensuring civility will lead to a better North Carolina.