

RESOLUTION 2010- 13

SHORT TITLE

A JOINT RESOLUTION ENDORSING "A CALL TO CIVILITY AND COMMUNITY-GROUND RULES FOR RESPECTFUL PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND BEHAVIOR" IN PROVO CITY.

PASSAGE BY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

ROLL CALL

DISTRICT	NAME	MOTION	SECOND	FOR	AGAINST	OTHER	
CW 1	LAURA H. CABANILLA			✓			
CW 2	STEVEN C. TURLEY			✓			
CD 1	CYNTHIA R. DAYTON			✓			
CD 2	RICHARD D. HEALEY			✓			
CD 3	MIDGE JOHNSON			✓			
CD 4	SHERRIE HALL EVERETT		✓	✓			
CD 5	STERLING BECK	✓		✓			
MAYOR	JOHN R. CURTIS			<i>excused</i>			
				TOTALS	7	0	1

This resolution was passed by the Municipal Council of Provo City, on the 19 day of January, 2010 on a roll call vote as described above. Signed this 19 day of January, 2010.

Midge Johnson
Chair

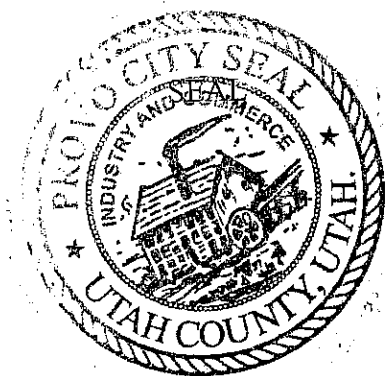
[Signature]
Mayor

RESOLUTION 2010-13

CITY RECORDER'S CERTIFICATE AND ATTEST

This Resolution was recorded in the office of the Provo City Recorder on the 21
day of January, 2010.

I hereby certify and attest that the foregoing constitutes a true and accurate record of
proceedings with respect to Resolution Number 2010-13.



Signed this 21 day of January 2010.

Talci Gwosdek
City Recorder

RESOLUTION 2010-13.

A JOINT RESOLUTION ENDORSING A CALL TO CIVILITY AND
COMMUNITY-GROUND RULES FOR RESPECTFUL DISCOURSE AND
BEHAVIOR IN PROVO CITY.

WHEREAS, the Utah 3Rs program is a national demonstration project sponsored by the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center in Washington, D.C., emphasizing civic principles of rights, responsibilities and respect grounded in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake Center for Engaging Community, with input from State leaders and with the support of the Utah 3Rs Project and the Coalition of Civic, Character and Service Learning, composed of groups dedicated to civic education in Utah, has prepared a document entitled "A Call to Civility and Community-Ground Rules for Respectful Public Discourse and Behavior"; and,

WHEREAS, all citizens, leaders and major institutions of Utah have been invited to endorse this Call to Civility and Community; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor has proposed that the Call to Civility and Community, set forth in the attached Exhibit "A", be adopted to encourage respectful public discourse and behavior; and,

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2010 the Municipal Council held a duly noticed public meeting to ascertain the facts regarding this matter, which facts are found in the meeting record; and,

WHEREAS, after considering the Mayor's recommendation and facts presented to the Municipal Council, the Council finds (i) the Call to Civility and Community should be endorsed as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A"; and (ii) such action reasonably furthers the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Provo City.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Municipal Council and Mayor of Provo City, Utah, as follows:

PART I:

The Municipal Council and Mayor hereby endorse "A Call to Civility and Community-Ground Rules for Respectful Public Discourse and Behavior" as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A".

PART II:

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

END OF RESOLUTION.

Exhibit "A"

CIVILITY AND RESPECT

Ground Rules for Respectful Public Discourse and Behavior

Being concerned about growing incivility in our civic and public settings,

Provo City has adopted the following ground rules for all discussions and debates in our meetings.

- In this country all people have the right to communicate freely about their thoughts and opinions.
- We recognize that our society is founded on the principle that *all people* have equal dignity and rights under the law, including the freedoms of conscience and expression.
- In the same way, all people are responsible for the abuse of those rights.
- We recognize that we often have differing opinions, and that spirited debate is an important part of American democracy.
- Each of us should be responsible both in the exercise of our rights *and* in protecting the rights of others, including those who may disagree with us and our opinions.
- Public discussion may be passionate, but we agree to be respectful toward others in our behavior and discourse.
- Each person shall listen mindfully to and attempt to understand the concerns of others by valuing their opinions even when there may be disagreement.
- Intimidation, ridicule, personal attacks, mean spiritedness, reprisals against those who may disagree with us and other disrespectful or unethical behavior will not be tolerated.
- The concept "of the people, by the people and for the people" suggests that each one of us has a responsibility to try to build community.
- On divisive issues, areas of common ground should be explored. Effort should be given to broad-based agreement, giving due regard to the concerns of minority points of view.
- We recognize that no one should be required to give up their heart-felt beliefs, and we agree that we may disagree in our opinions and beliefs.

EXHIBIT "A"

A CALL TO CIVILITY AND COMMUNITY

Ground Rules for Respectful Public Discourse and Behavior

"Frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is essential to the security of individual rights and perpetuity of free government." Constitution of Utah Article I Section 27

Being concerned about growing incivility in our civic and public settings we call upon the people of Utah to return to fundamental principles that will lead to greater civility and a new spirit of community. Among our "inherent and inalienable" Constitutional rights is the fundamental right "to communicate freely about our thoughts and opinions", and yet we are also "responsible for the abuse of that right" Constitution of Utah Article I Section 1. In that context we believe that there must be a renewal of respectful discourse and behavior in civic and public settings in Utah.

This is not an appeal for us all simply to get along. We recognize that there are profound differences among us and that spirited debate is a vital part of American democracy. Participation in American civic and public life does not require us to sacrifice our deepest convictions; rather we best protect our own rights by protecting the rights of others and adhering to high ethical standards.

With that in mind we propose the following ground rules of civic and public engagement that recognize the important place of the rights, responsibilities and respect inherent in our civic and constitutional compact.

1. **Remember the Importance of Rights and the Dignity of Each Individual.** Our society is founded upon the proposition that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that freedom of conscience and expression are at the foundation of our rights.
2. **Responsibly Exercise your Rights While Protecting the Rights of Others.** Each of us should be responsible both in the exercise of our rights and in protecting the rights of others. Especially on matters of personal faith, claims of conscience, and human rights, public policy should seek solutions that are fair to all.
3. **Respect Others.** All people - especially our leaders and the media - should demonstrate a commitment to be respectful in discourse and behavior, particularly in civic and public forums. Respect should also be shown by being honest and as inclusive as possible, by mindfully listening to and attempting to understand the concerns of others, by valuing their opinions even when there is disagreement, and by addressing their concerns when possible.
4. **Refrain from Incivility.** Public discourse can be passionate while maintaining mutual respect that reaches beyond differing opinions. Intimidation, ridicule, personal attacks, mean spiritedness, reprisals against those who disagree, and other disrespectful or unethical behaviors destroy the fabric of our society and can no longer be tolerated. Those who engage in such behavior should be brought to light, held accountable and should no longer enjoy the public's trust.
5. **Rekindle Building Community.** Our social compact "of the people" and "by the people" is "for the people." Each one of us has a responsibility to build community. On divisive issues, areas of common ground should first be explored. Effort should be given to building broad-based agreement, giving due regard to the concerns of minority points of view.

*We invite all Utahns to join us in affirming these ground rules and putting them into action.
The time has come for us to work together.*