



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: February 17, 2025

Prepared By: City Clerk, Valeri Brod

Agenda Item: Adoption of Illinois Municipal League’s Civility Pledge

Explanation: In 2023, the Illinois Municipal League (IML), which advocates on behalf of municipalities throughout the state, provided its members with a draft civility pledge, on which Washington’s proposed pledge is modeled.

Nationally, public meetings and interactions with officials have become more contentious in recent years. As communities become more divided over differing perspectives, there is a rising demand for conversations to remain respectful and professional. This pledge emphasizes the importance of listening to and respecting others, as well as acknowledging that everyone shares responsibility for improving our community. The City of Washington has the opportunity to join IML and neighboring communities in fostering an environment where elected and appointed officials can advocate for their policies and values without the fear of retaliation from all parties.

By adopting IML’s Civility Pledge, the City of Washington will strive to work together to create an environment where all views are respectfully expressed and heard. The City of Washington invites all attendees—staff, elected, invited guests and the public—to contribute to fostering a professional atmosphere of mutual respect.

Fiscal Impact: None

Action Requested: Adoption of Illinois Municipal League’s Civility Pledge

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ADOPTING CIVILITY PLEDGE

WHEREAS, the City of Washington recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas, viewpoints and robust debate are essential to democratic self-governance; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council as elected officials of the City of Washington, recognize the importance of engaging in free and spirited debate, while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal League (IML) has adopted a Civility Pledge which encourages the core tenets of civility; and,

WHEREAS, the Civility Pledge states, “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 may have different ideas for achieving that objective;” and,

WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare a commitment to civil discourse and to express concern for the common good and wellbeing of all residents of the City of Washington, the Mayor and City Council have determined it to be in the best interests of the City of Washington to adopt this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington adopt as follows:

Section 1. The Civility Pledge as set forth in this Resolution is hereby adopted.

Section 2. The elected and appointed officials of the City of Washington are asked to sign the Civility Pledge and adhere to it during all public meetings and in all official actions.

APPROVED THIS ____ day of _____, 2025.

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk

Civility Pledge

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 may have different ideas for achieving that objective.

Adopted by resolution number: _____

Aldersperson, Ward I

Dated: _____

Aldersperson, Ward I

Signed and acknowledged by:

Aldersperson, Ward II

Mayor

Aldersperson, Ward II

City Clerk

Aldersperson, Ward III

City Treasurer

Aldersperson, Ward III

Aldersperson, Ward IV

(SEAL)

Aldersperson, Ward IV