

## BURIEN RULES OF CIVILITY

The City of Burien is a beautiful and diverse community abutting the Puget Sound. Its people are hardworking and compassionate. The community deserves the best and it is the Council's duty to do our best for our community.

In serving this community, Burien's Councilmembers understand the need vigorously pursue those things that benefit the community while following the example of our community and being civil and courteous while we discuss our different opinions.

The following are some thoughts about civility:

1. I think that, over time, people respond to civility and rational argument – Barack Obama
2. The great thing about civility is that it does not require you to agree with or approve of anything. You don't even have to love your neighbor to be civil. You just have to treat your neighbor the same way you would like your neighbor to treat your grandmother, or your child – Barbara Brown Taylor
3. Civility does not mean the mere outward gentleness of speech cultivated for the occasion, but an inborn gentleness and desire to do the opponent good – Mahatma Gandhi
4. So let us begin anew remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate. Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us – John F. Kennedy

With those and other adages in mind, and with the intent of maintaining a productive, safe, and effective work environment, each Councilmember agrees to the following:

1. Presume the best intentions even if you disagree with the idea or position.
2. Discuss issues or conflicts with the Council to allow the Council to find the solution.
3. When confronted by a problem, issue, or differing opinion, offer alternative solutions.
4. Respect each other, staff, and community members. Each represents a valid interest.
5. Promote civility during meetings and interactions and accept nothing less than civility.
6. Maintain the confidentiality of Executive Sessions and Attorney-Client privileged information.

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By signing this document, each Councilmember agrees to abide by the spirit and letter of this letter.

  
Mayor Sofia Aragon

  
Deputy Mayor Kevin Schilling

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Hugo Garcia

  
Jimmy Matta

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Cydne Moore

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Sarah Moore

  
Stephanie Mora