

## **Title**

Orland Park Civility Resolution

## **Background**

In 2023, the Illinois Municipal League (IML) introduced a Civility Pledge promoting the core values of respectful public discourse and encouraged all elected and appointed officials across the state to sign it. Similarly, in 2011, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a Civility Accord to promote civility in public life.

To express its commitment to fostering respectful dialogue and advancing the common good and wellbeing of all residents of the Village of Orland Park, Mayor Jim Dodge and members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park find it to be in the best interests of the Village to adopt a formal Civility Resolution.

Mayor Jim Dodge and members of the Board of Trustees affirm that robust public debate and the exchange of diverse perspectives are fundamental to democratic self-governance. Mayor Jim Dodge and members of the Board of Trustees also recognize the importance of conducting such discourse with honesty, civility, and mutual respect.

Mayor Jim Dodge and members of the Board of Trustees further believe that because local governmental leaders, as those closest to the people, are uniquely positioned to set an example and positively influence the tone of public engagement.

In the interest of civility, Mayor Jim Dodge and members of the Board of Trustees pledge:

- To promote civility by listening respectfully, recognizing our shared goal of improving the community, and acknowledging that we may differ on the means to achieve it.
- To uphold the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the Constitution of the United States.
- A commitment to the following principles for civil discourse:
  - Respect the right of all individuals to hold differing opinions.
  - Strive to understand other perspectives.
  - Choose words thoughtfully.
  - Speak truthfully without accusation or distortion.
- To demonstrate and encourage qualities that support a civil society, including gratitude, humility, openness, public service, propriety, kindness, compassion, faith, a sense of duty, and a commitment to doing what is right.

## **Recommended Action/Motion**

I move to adopt the Orland Park Civility Resolution and direct that a signed copy of the Civility Resolution be displayed in a prominent location in Village Hall.

## **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK**

### **ADOPTING A CIVILITY PLEDGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Orland Park affirms that robust debate and the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints are essential to democratic self-governance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Village President and Board of Trustees, as elected officials of the Village of Orland Park, recognize the importance of engaging in public discourse with civility, honesty, and mutual respect; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Municipal League (IML) has adopted a Civility Pledge promoting these core values; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a similar Civility Accord; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park believe that because local elected officials are the elected leaders closest to the people, restoration of civility must begin with us. We are uniquely positioned to lead by example in restoring civility in public life; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park pledge to promote civility by listening, being respectful of others, engaging in free and spirited debate, 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 formally declare this commitment to civil discourse and to express concern for the common good and wellbeing of all residents of the Village of Orland Park, the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park hereby adopt this Resolution in the best interests of the Village and its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park as follows:

**Section 1.** The foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated as findings of fact as if said recitals were fully set forth herein.

**Section 2.** The Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park agree to the following pledge:

In the interest of civility, I pledge:

- To promote civility by listening respectfully, recognizing our shared goal of improving the community, and acknowledging that we may differ on the means to achieve it.
- To uphold the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the Constitution of the United States.
- A commitment to the following principles for civil discourse:
  - Respect the right of all individuals to hold differing opinions.

- Strive to understand other perspectives.
- Choose words thoughtfully.
- Speak truthfully without accusation or distortion.
- To demonstrate and encourage qualities that support a civil society, including gratitude, humility, openness, public service, propriety, kindness, compassion, faith, a sense of duty, and a commitment to doing what is right.

**Section 3.** The elected and appointed officials of the Village of Orland Park are asked to sign the Civility Pledge and adhere to it to the best of their abilities during all public meetings and in all official actions.

**Section 4.** A signed copy of this Resolution is to be displayed in a prominent area of Village Hall.