

**Exhibit “C”**  
**City of El Paso**  
**Public Comment Conduct Policy**

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**I. Purpose**

City Council Meetings and public comment at City Council Meetings are conducted for the official business of the City Council. Members of the public attending City Council Meetings shall observe the same rules of civility, decorum and respectful conduct applicable to members of the City Council. To ensure meetings are conducted in a professional and courteous manner which enables the order conduct of business, all persons in attendance or who participate in such meetings shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not interfere with the ability of others to observe and, when allowed, to participate without disruption or fear of intimidation, threats or hostility. The public has the right to criticize policies, procedure, programs or services of the City or of the actions or omission of the City Council or City staff. However, a member of the public addressing the City Council shall not defame another person or engage in any disorderly conduct which disrupts the orderly conduct of any City Council Meeting or City Council Public Comment meeting.

**II. Conduct Violations**

The Presiding Officer may rule a public speaker out of order and in violation of the Council Rules if:

- (a.) the speaker is speaking beyond the allocated time limit and refuses to yield the floor.
- (b.) the speaker’s remarks are not relevant to the agenda item under consideration at a City Council Meeting or City business or affairs at a City Council Public Comment meeting.
- (c.) the speaker repeatedly interrupts a Council Member.
- (d.) the speaker’s remarks or displays are disruptive so as to disturb the peace and good order of the meeting, through use of, without limitation, defamatory, loud, threatening, hostile, abusive, vulgar or obscene language, or any other actions that disturb or are calculated to disturb the meeting. Displays include but are not limited to signs and clothing.
- (e.) the speaker engages in any conduct with the intent to break up the meeting of the City Council or urges other to commit acts or engage in conduct to break up the meeting, including unreasonably loud and prolonged yelling, screaming, clapping or noise-creating acts, obstructing views of any person, which render it impossible or difficult for the City Council to conduct or continue with the meeting.
- (f.) the speaker willfully refuses or fails to comply with any Council Rule of Procedure or with any reasonable order of the Chair. Demonstrations, or other activities which disturb the peace and good order of the meeting shall not be permitted in the Council Chambers.

### III. Procedure

1. The Presiding Officer shall have the authority to preserve order at all City Council Meetings and City Council Public Comment meetings and enforce the Council Rules of Order, including:
  - (a.) the authority to revoke the permission granted to any individual to speak if such individual is disruptive or does not adhere to this policy.
  - (b.) to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the City Council for disorderly conduct, and to exclude a person from returning to that same meeting from which the individual was removed.
  - (c.) If the Presiding Officer determines that this policy of are not being followed, one warning will be given to the individual(s).
  - (d.) If this policy continues to be violated after one warning, the Presiding Officer may revoke the individual's speaking privileges and may remove, or cause to be removed by security personnel, the individual from the Council Chamber.
  - (e.) Any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting shall be excluded from returning to that meeting from which the individual was removed and shall be barred from further audience before the City Council during that session of the City Council.
2. Members of City Council may move to overrule the Presiding Officer's determination subject to a simple majority vote of City Council, present and voting.