

RESOLUTION NO. 2604

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTOLA ADOPTING
RULES OF DECORUM FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to formally adopt Rules of Decorum that will contribute to the orderly conduct of meetings, thereby enhancing the ability of the City to effectively address the needs and concerns of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the Rules of Decorum attached hereto as “Exhibit A” at a regularly scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, these Rule of Decorum supersede any other rules of decorum previously adopted by the City that conflict with these Rules of Decorum; and

WHEREAS, the City Council took public comment on the Rules of Decorum; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of Rules of Decorum supports Title 2, Chapter 2.08 of the City of Portola Municipal Code and is consistent with the principles of transparency, accountability, and public participation; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of Rules of Decorum is authorized by the Brown Act, Government Code §§ 54954.3 and 54957.95.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Portola that the Rules of Decorum attached hereto as “Exhibit A” are adopted and shall take effect immediately upon the passage and adoption of this Resolution.

PASSED APPROVED AND ADOPTED this **22nd day of January 2025**.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Jim Murphy, Mayor

ATTEST:

Malachi Mansfield, Deputy City Clerk

I, Malachi Mansfield, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Portola, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Portola at a regular meeting thereof held on January 22nd, 2025.

Malachi Mansfield, Deputy City Clerk

EXHIBIT A
RULES OF DECORUM

1. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend City meetings. However, members of the public may be removed from a public meeting if they are disrupting the meeting. “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Failing to follow the direction of the Mayor or person presiding over the meeting as to following these Rules of Decorum.
 - b. Failing to follow the direction of the Mayor or person presiding over the meeting as to when and how long to speak.
 - c. Speaking when not recognized by the Mayor or person presiding over the meeting.
 - d. Speaking beyond the time allotted.
 - e. Speaking to or addressing items that are not the item being considered at the time.
 - f. Being overly repetitive.
 - g. Engaging in disorderly or boisterous conduct, including but not limited to applauding, cheering, whistling, stamping of feet, booing, yelling, screaming, heckling or making any loud, threatening, profane, abusive, personal, impertinent, or slanderous utterance that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting.
 - h. Engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.
2. The behavior described above interferes with the rights of the other members of the public attending the meeting and prevents the City from continuing its work on behalf of the public.
3. A person who is disrupting the meeting will be warned that their conduct is disrupting the meeting and that if they don't stop the disruptive behavior or engage in other disruptive behavior, they may be ordered to leave or be removed from the meeting, except that no warning need be given prior to removing a person for engaging in behavior that constitutes a use of force or a true threat of force.
4. If any person refuses to leave the meeting following an order from the Mayor or person presiding over the meeting to do so, the Mayor or person presiding over the meeting may request or order any law enforcement officer on duty to remove that person from the meeting.
5. While members of the public have the right to criticize the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the City, or the acts or omissions of the City Council or staff, nothing in the Brown Act or the law confers any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law. In other words, speakers can be held liable for defamation. (Gov. Code § 54954.3(c))