

Decorum Amendment to CLERB Board policy and procedure guide:

The CLERB Board (“Board”) wishes to ensure that business is conducted in an orderly fashion, to encourage public input at its meetings, and to ensure that all have an equal opportunity to observe and participate in the proceedings. Accordingly, the following shall govern the conduct of the meeting:

- 1) All remarks and questions by a speaker shall be addressed to the Board and not to CLERB staff.
- 2) Each person who addresses the Board shall not use loud, shouting, threatening, impertinent, slanderous, profane, or abusive language to any member of the Board, staff, or the general public. The Chairperson may, at the Chairperson’s option, state to the person who has used such language that such language is unwanted, unwelcome, inappropriate, and interferes with the ability of those present to listen and understand. The speaker’s time will be held during the Chairperson’s statement and the speaker will receive their full allotment of time, unless the speaker is sanctioned under Rule 4(d) in a manner that results in the speaker not receiving their full allotment of time.
- 3) No person shall disrupt, disturb, or otherwise impede the orderly conduct of the Board meeting. Any language or conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the Board meeting is prohibited, and the Chairperson may impose sanctions for a violation under Rule 4(d).
- 4) Nothing herein shall preclude a member of the public from commenting on, questioning, or criticizing the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the CLERB, the acts or omissions of the Board, or the positions, statements, votes, actions, or omissions of members of the Board.
 - a) The Chairperson may rule that a speaker is impeding the orderly conduct of the meeting if the comment is “off topic,” or otherwise unrelated to the agenda item under consideration, or if the speaker’s conduct violates any other provision in these Rules of Procedure, and the speaker may forfeit their remaining time on that item.
 - b) No person in the audience at a Board meeting shall engage in conduct that disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting, including, but not limited to, the utterance of loud or threatening language, whistling, clapping, stamping of feet, speaking over or interrupting the recognized speaker, repeated waving of arms or other disruptive acts.
 - c) Large placards, banners, signs, flags, or other objects that have the effect of interrupting or disrupting the orderly conduct, or blocking the views of others within the meeting room are not permitted.

- d) The Chairperson has the authority to sanction those who violate the Rules. No sanction will be issued under this rule based on the content of a person's speech; rather, a speaker may be sanctioned as described herein if a speaker's speech or conduct disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting or interferes with the Board's ability to accomplish its business. Any person who disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting by uttering loud, shouting, threatening, impertinent, slanderous, profane, or abusive language or by engaging in any other disorderly conduct shall, at the discretion of the Chairperson, or a majority of the members, be ruled "out of order" and be given at least one warning. If the person continues to violate the Rules and disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting, the Chairperson may order that person to do one or more of the following:
- i) End their remarks, forfeit their remaining time, and be seated;
 - ii) Be prohibited from speaking on any further item on that meeting's agenda; or
 - iii) Leave the meeting.
- e) However, a person who engages in behavior that constitutes use of force or a threat of force may be removed immediately, and no warning is required. If the person does not timely leave the meeting, the Chairperson may order the Sheriff to remove the person from the meeting.
- f) Any person removed from the Board Chamber shall be excluded from further attendance and participation in the Board meeting for the remainder of the meeting, including all sessions of the same meeting. Attendance may be continued from any of the overflow rooms provided that the person ceases any such disorderly conduct. The exclusion from the meeting shall be enforced by the Sheriff upon being so directed by the Chairperson.
- g) In the event that any meeting of the Board is willfully interrupted or disrupted by a person or by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible, the Chairperson may recess the meeting or order the person, group or groups of persons willfully interrupting the meeting to leave the meeting or be removed from the meeting.
- h) In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted or disrupted by a person or by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of the person or persons willfully interrupting or disrupting the meeting, the Chairperson may recess the meeting or order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only matters appearing on the posted agenda may be considered in such a session. Duly accredited representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend or remain in the meeting.

- i) If any person makes discriminatory or harassing remarks (defined below as used in the Rules of Procedure) at a public meeting, the Chairperson may take the following actions:
 - i) The Chairperson shall read, at Chairperson's option, the County's policy regarding discrimination and harassment (below), into the record. The Chairperson shall state that comments in violation of County policy will not be condoned, and inform the speaker that their language is unwanted, unwelcome and/or inappropriate, and that they interfere with the ability of those present to listen and understand; and
 - ii) The Chairperson shall further state that any County employee who is offended or otherwise does not wish to attend due to the remarks is excused from attendance at the meeting during the remarks; and
 - iii) The speaker's time will be held during the Chairperson's admonishment and the speaker will receive their full allotment of time, unless the speaker's comments continue to disturb, disrupt, or impede the orderly conduct of the meeting; and
 - iv) The speaker will be allowed to continue after the admonishment; and
 - v) The Chairperson may call a recess to allow staff or public to leave and/or provide de-escalation; and
 - vi) After the speaker, any Board Member may make brief response to such comments, if desired.
- 5) Definition: "Discriminatory or harassing remarks" includes legally protected speech in a Board meeting that disparages an individual or group based on their perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability, etc. or other hate speech but does not rise to the level of a criminal threat or inciting violence.
- 6) Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment (from County's Code of Ethics): "The County is committed to a work environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment, including sexual, racial, religious, age, disability, or any other form of discrimination or harassment."
- 7) The County wishes to promote civil discourse in public discussion and debate, and hereby adopts as its expression of conduct that should be aspired to by all participants in public meetings the attached "Code of Civil Discourse" from the National Conflict Resolution Center.