

# CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: July 1, 2013  
 General Plan Element: *Community Involvement*  
 General Plan Goal: *Seek community-wide representation on issues*

## **ACTION**

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Adopt Resolution 9445 adopting the Principles of Civil Dialogue which states "As a member of the Scottsdale community, I will genuinely listen; speak respectfully; and be accountable for my words and actions."

## **BACKGROUND**

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In January 2011, Scottsdale Leadership Class 25 began challenging themselves to think about civil discourse. It was concluded that while "a healthy community engages in robust public dialogue on important issues" it is also essential for integrity and respect to be part of any discussion or debate. Scottsdale Leadership then developed the "Principle for Civil Dialogue" and in November 2011 Mayor Lane officially proclaimed his support for these principles. Since that time, many civic organizations and public bodies adopted or endorsed these principles and see the value in implementing them as part of their stated core beliefs.

## **ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT**

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Scottsdale Leadership's *Principles for Civil Dialogue* brings public awareness to civil discourse. While genuine listening, respectful speaking and accountability are most often learned early in life, these key leadership traits are often lost in the passion of discussion. The goal of this initiative and resolution are keeping civil dialogue foremost in people's minds as they go about their daily lives.

### **Significant Issues to be Addressed**

During many public outreach efforts, the most significant question was "Aren't these Principles infringing on my right to free speech?" The Principles encourage respectful listening, speaking and accountability. Each statement is written as an I or me statement, so each person takes ownership and responsibility for the Principles. Infringing, inhibiting or enforcing are not aspects of the Principles for Civil Dialogue or this resolution.

**Community Involvement**

To date, over twenty organizations within Scottsdale and the State of Arizona (listed below) have provided written adoption or endorsement of Scottsdale Leadership’s Principles for Civil Dialogue:

1. Arizona Council for International Visitors
2. Concerned Citizens for Community Health (501(c)(3) funding for Vista del Camino)
3. Friends of the Scottsdale Library
4. S.T.A.R.S. (Scottsdale Training and Rehabilitation Services)
5. Scottsdale Boys & Girls Club
6. Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce
7. Scottsdale Commission, Human Relations
8. Scottsdale Commission, Human Services
9. Scottsdale Commission, McDowell Sonoran Preserve
10. Scottsdale Commission, Neighborhood Services
11. Scottsdale Commission, Parks & Recreation
12. Scottsdale Commission, Planning
13. Scottsdale Commission, Transportation
14. Scottsdale Community College
15. Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau
16. Scottsdale GLBT Affinity Group
17. Scottsdale Leadership, Inc.
18. Scottsdale Library
19. Scottsdale YMCA
20. Sunrise Rotary
21. 1N10

**RESOURCE IMPACTS**

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This resolution has no resource impacts.

**OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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**Recommended Approach**

Adopt Resolution 9445 adopting the Principles of Civil Dialogue which states “As a member of the Scottsdale community, I will genuinely listen; speak respectfully; and be accountable for my works and actions.”

**RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)**

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Mayor and City Council

**STAFF CONTACTS (S)**

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Rachel Smetana, Management Assistant to Mayor Lane, rsmetana@scottsdaleaz.gov

**APPROVED BY**

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J.P. Twist, Chief of Staff

480-312-7806, JPTwist@scottsdaleaz.gov

6-18-13  
Date

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution 9445
2. Principles for Civil Dialogue and Value Statement document

RESOLUTION NO. 9445

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, REGARDING THE PRINCIPLES OF CIVIL DIALOGUE.

WHEREAS, a healthy community engages in robust public dialogue on important issues and the best decisions require that many points of view be heard and considered; and

WHEREAS, active public dialogue is important and all community members should feel safe expressing their views; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Scottsdale wishes to encourage all those engaging in discussion important to the City's citizens to aspire to embody the Principles of Civil Dialogue in their discourse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale as follows:

Section 1. That the City of Scottsdale encourages as an aspirational goal for all those engaged in the discussion of public issues adherence to the Principles of Civil Dialogue, which states "As a member of the Scottsdale Community, I will genuinely listen; speak respectfully; and be accountable for my words and actions."

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

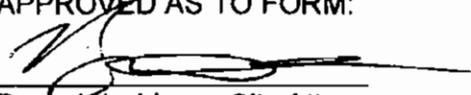
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an Arizona  
municipal corporation

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Jagger, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Washburn, City Attorney



(August 2011) Initiative driven by Scottsdale Leadership alumni for adoption throughout the Scottsdale community

**Value Statement:**

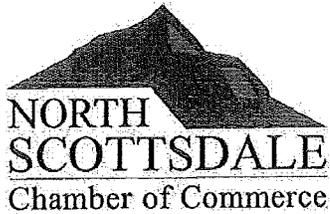
Civil discourse advances the public interests, as opposed to selfish interests. It creates a safe environment in which different points of view can be expressed and evaluated.

**Principles for Civil Dialogue:**

*As a member of the Scottsdale community, I will genuinely listen; speak respectfully; and be accountable for my words and actions.*

**Definitions:**

- **"Genuinely listen"** means I will listen for the purpose of understanding the speaker's point of view, without prejudging whether that point of view is right or wrong.
- **"Speak respectfully"** means I will voice my point of view calmly and respectfully without losing the passion of my position and commitment, discussing the issues without personal criticisms.
- **"Being accountable"** means I accept responsibility for my words and actions.



## 2013 Board of Directors

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HR Wise, LLC  
Chairman

June 28, 2013

Andrea Kranitz  
Integrative Business Solutions  
1st Vice Chair

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Development and Events Associate  
Scottsdale Leadership, Inc.  
10533 E. Lakeview Dr.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

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Edward Jones  
2nd Vice Chair

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Commercial Properties, Inc.  
Treasurer

Dear Ms. Wenström:

Loren Molever  
Molever Conelly, PLLC  
Immediate Past Chair

The North Scottsdale Chamber Board of Directors endorsed the Principles for Civil Dialogue at our June 27, board meeting.

Mick Bernard  
Credit Strategies

The Chamber is pleased for the opportunity to engage on an issue of such importance to our community.

Andrew Bloom  
Bloom VanOmen Realty

Please feel free to publicize our organization's commitment to the Principles as appropriate.

Pam Crespo  
Elements Therapeutic Massage

Chris Coyle  
Republic Services

Sincerely,

Mark Gaudio  
Gaudio Insurance Group

Joe Galli  
Executive Director

Greg Kolton  
Bank of Arizona

Borg Siburg  
SpeedPro Imaging

Eric Walberg  
Law Office of Eric L. Walberg

## Stevens, Katie

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**From:** jeffjameson@cox.net  
**Sent:** Monday, July 01, 2013 12:58 PM  
**To:** Jagger, Carolyn; Stevens, Katie  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Comment for 07/01/13 - Item Resolution 9445

Meeting Date: 07/01/13  
Item Number: Resolution 9445

Contact Information (if blank, user did not provide):

Name: Jeff Jameson  
Address: 9063 E. Aster Drive  
C/S/Z: Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
Phone:

Comment for 07/01/13 Item Resolution 9445:

I strongly urge Council to Adopt the Principals of Civil Dialogue. These universal tenets are so important in these days of heightened polarization present in public discourse. We have many problems to solve and creating civil dialogue is the first step in mutual understanding.

Adopting this will send an important message to all residents and visitors that we embrace and appreciate differences and have a welcoming atmosphere for people to live and grow.

Thank you. Jeff Jameson - Chairman - Scottsdale Human Relations Commission