



# **CITY COUNCIL TALKING POINTS**

1. When speaking on an agenda item, only speak to that item. If you speak on topics other than the agenda item being discussed, the Presiding Officer may ask you to take a seat until the “Oral Communications” portion of the meeting. (See #2)
2. During the “Oral Communications” portion of the meeting, any member of the public may speak to issues not on the agenda, provided the topic is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council.
3. At no time will speakers be permitted to address campaign issues or use a public meeting as campaign forum. No person, whether a Councilmember on the dais or a member of the audience speaking at the podium, may do the following:
  - A. Urge people to vote for (or against) any particular candidate or ballot measure.
  - B. Announce an upcoming political campaign event.
  - C. Solicit campaign donations.
  - D. Urge people to become campaign volunteers.
  - E. Present a candidate’s campaign platform.
4. No speaker may use profanity.
5. Disrupting a Council meeting is a misdemeanor. Any person disrupting a meeting will be asked to stop and, if he or she continues, they will be escorted out of the room.

This document has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. Legal authority: California Penal Code § 403; California Government Code § 54954.3; *Kindt v. Santa Monica Rent Control Board* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995) 67 F.3d 266; *White v. City of Norwalk* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990) 900 F.2d 1421; *Leventhal v. Vista Unified School District* (Southern Dist., 1997) 973 F.Supp. 951; *Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District* (Central Dist., 1996) 936 F.Supp. 719.