

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF CLAYTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2011 – 28

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY OF CIVILITY WHEN RECEIVING PUBLIC COMMENTS; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has adopted a procedure for taking public comments at its meetings as found in Section 2-35-05 of the Code of Ordinances which provides that: “The Board welcomes public comment; however to manage available time, public comment will be limited to two minutes per speaker at each regular business meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Public Comment will come at the end of the regular meeting but before the executive session, unless otherwise determined by the Board. Any member of the public wishing to make comments must sign up with the Clerk prior to the call of the meeting.” and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the democratic process encourages the participation of its citizens, and that the citizens have a right to be heard; and

WHEREAS, while participation is necessary and beneficial to the functioning of free government, disrespect, incivility and personal attacks are not; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to state that it is the policy of the Board that it fully supports and encourages public participation, it does not support disrespectful behavior and therefore establishes the following policy with respect to receiving public comments at the regular meetings of the Board and that it is in the best interest of the citizen to establish this policy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the following policy with respect to receiving public comments at its regular meetings. The Policy below shall be read at the beginning of the public comment portion of the meeting and shall be posted next to the sign up sheet.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

In order to provide a professional and courteous forum for citizens to bring concerns and issues before the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, we ask that all speakers be aware of the following guidelines: All Clayton County Board of Commissioners meetings are audio taped in order to ensure fairness and accuracy. Issues requiring possible action by the Board may be added to a future agenda. Issues that may need to be addressed by the County administration will be duly noted. Abusive language and/or personal attacks on Board

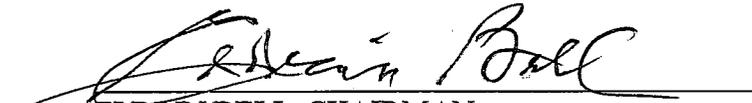
members, County employees, or other citizens will not be permitted and such persons will be ruled out of order by the Chair. All speakers must adhere to this Policy and other rules as may be necessary. In compliance with State statutes, matters of personnel will not be discussed in public. Personnel matters generally will be handled in an Executive Session of the Board of Commissioners. Only speakers who sign up for the Public Comments session will be allowed to speak. We ask that they identify themselves and their county of residence before speaking. Time may not be yielded from one speaker to another.

The Clerk will be the timekeeper and each speaker will be allowed 2 minutes. We ask each speaker to adhere to this time limit and step aside when time is called.

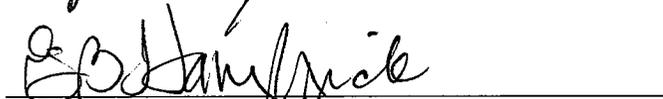
Section 2. This Resolution shall be effective on the date of its approval by the Board of Commissioners.

SO RESOLVED, this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2011.

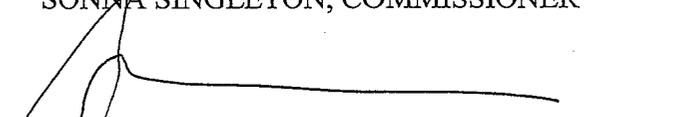
CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
ELDRIN BELL, CHAIRMAN

  
WOLF RALPH, VICE CHAIRMAN

  
GAIL B. HAMBRICK, COMMISSIONER

  
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ATTEST:

  
SHELBY D. HAYWOOD, CLERK