**A RESOLUTION**

**PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY**

**WHEREAS**, the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION], recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the Board, organization, and quality of governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board, as stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and

**WHEREAS**, civility by [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board members in the execution of their duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness and thoughtfulness between officials, avoiding personal ill will which results in actions being directed to issues made in the best interests of the organization and those they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, civility between [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board members presents an opportunity to set a positive example of conduct and promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of issues, resulting in better public policy while also encouraging civil behavior between Board members, staff, and the community; and

**WHEREAS,** civility between [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board members is possible if each member of the body remembers that they represent not only themselves, but the constituents of their respective communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of their own communities, the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board has determined to adopt this resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION ONE**

The [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board pledges to practice and promote civility within the body as a means of conducting duties and responsibilities.

**SECTION TWO**

The members of the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] Board enact this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous organization by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] and their stakeholders and partners.

**SECTION THREE**

This pledge strives to ensure that all communication be open, honest, and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

**SECTION FOUR**

This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online or in written communication, especially when we disagree.

**SECTION FIVE**

This pledge strives to ensure mutual respect to achieve organizational goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success and demonstrates the Board’s commitment to respect different opinions, by inviting and considering different perspectives, allowing space for ideas to be expressed, debated, opposed, and clarified in a constructive manner.

**SECTION SIX**

This pledge demonstrates our commitment against violence and incivility in all their forms whenever and wherever they occur in all our meetings and interactions.

**SECTION SEVEN**

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION] expects members of the public to be civil in its discussion of matters under consideration by an before the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION], with Board members, staff, and each other.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 202X.

[Insert appropriate title…President, Chair, CEO]

**[List signature lines for Boardmembers/Commissioners below]**

Boardmember /Commissioner Boardmember /Commissioner

Boardmember /Commissioner Boardmember /Commissioner

Boardmember /Commissioner Boardmember /Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

[insert title]