

2012 Mayor and City Council Team Expectations

The Dunwoody City Council is comprised of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, opinions, and goals. Despite this diversity, all are united in the goal to serve and improve our community. This common goal should be acknowledged even as Council may "agree to disagree" on contentious issues.

As requested by the Mayor, the following guidelines are designed as a starting point to assist the City Council in their efforts to mutually agree upon a set of Mayor and City Council Team Expectations to encourage one another to respectfully work as a team for the betterment of the City.

- **Practice civility, professionalism, and decorum in discussions and debate**

Difficult questions, tough challenges, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not allow, however, Council members to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, or disparaging comments to any elected officials, staff, or citizens. Council members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

- **Honor the role of the Mayor in maintaining order**

The Mayor is responsible for keeping Council meetings on track. Council members should honor efforts by the Mayor to focus discussion on current agenda items. At public meetings and executive sessions, Council members should wait to be recognized by the Mayor before giving their comments.

- **Be punctual and keep comments relative to topics discussed**

Council members have made a commitment to attend meetings and partake in discussions. Therefore, it is important that Council members be punctual and that meetings start on time. All discussions on an issue should be relative to the topic at hand to allow adequate time to fully discuss all scheduled issues.

- **Support the direction of Council**

Although each Council member often has a personal opinion, once an issue has been decided by the Council each member should support the direction of Council, respect the decision that has been made, lay aside differences, and move forward. Topics should not be brought back up for discussion without new substantial or critical information that necessitates reconsideration.

- **Stay focused on the overall and long range good of the City**

Collectively, the Council makes all policy decisions for the City of Dunwoody while the administrative staff, led by the City Manager, work diligently to implement the decisions that have been made. The Council should be respectful of the division of responsibilities and stay focused on making good decisions for the overall and long range well being of the City.

- **Be representative of the community as a whole**

While it is good and appropriate that each Council member regularly hears from and communicates with members of the community, Council decisions should be based on the needs of the City as a whole, not just vocal minorities. Be cautious in forming opinions based on the needs of one particular group or segment of the community.

- **Be aware of the constant public presence**

The actions, mannerisms, and language of the Council are constantly monitored and observed by the community. Lunch table conversations, parking lot debates, and casual comments between individuals before and after public meetings are noted. Council members should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects this constant public presence.