

**RESOLUTION #2017-50      TOWN OF ENFIELD CHOOSES CIVILITY RESOLUTION  
(9/13/17)**

**WHEREAS**, the right to self-expression and free speech are fundamental rights and essential in preserving democratic values and promoting the common good;

**WHEREAS**, a robust exchange of ideas is necessary to the health of society as well as in the discourse of public and private organizations working for the common good;

**WHEREAS**, civility in discourse contributes to the well-being of a community, underscores its general health and wellness and depends in great part on how a community's members treat each other;

**WHEREAS**, embracing civility allows diverse and impassioned opinions and viewpoints to be considered with respect and due consideration in an inclusive and respectful environment for members of the governing body as well as for the public;

**WHEREAS**, concern for the common good and well-being of all citizens is one of the highest virtues in a democratic society;

**WHEREAS**, every citizen is responsible for demonstrating such behavior; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Enfield promotes civil behavior between and by its board members, committee members, staff and residents, now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** to exhibit and encourage the kinds of personal qualities that are typical in a civil society—gratitude, humility, openness, passion for service to others, propriety, kindness, caring, sense of duty, and a commitment to doing what is right in the Enfield community. All Enfield board members, committee members and staff shall strive to:

1. Treat everyone courteously
2. Listen to others respectfully
3. Give open minded consideration to all viewpoints
4. Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate
5. Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights that are inherent components of an inclusive public process and tools for forging sound decisions and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Enfield board members, committees and staff shall strive to promote the use of and adherence to these guidelines in all Enfield community activities.