

Resolution No. 372-2026

Council Members Conwell and Griffin

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging civility in local government and supporting calls for local governments to promote dignity, respect and constructive dialogue in public meetings and community engagement.

WHEREAS, in an era marked by polarization and rising tensions, the call for civility is more urgent than ever; and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute for Civility, civility is about claiming and caring for one's identity, needs, and beliefs without degrading someone else in the process; it is an intentional decision about how we represent ourselves and our communities in the public square; and

WHEREAS, civility is respect for somebody's dignity, even when one disagrees with a person; attacks on motives and character are the exact opposite of civility; and

WHEREAS, local leaders must address rising tensions in civic spaces with empathy and encourage constructive community engagement and respect for others, even those with opposing views; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, in that it is important for local leaders to encourage respectful public discourse and restore trust in local governance, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges civility in local government and supports calls for local governments to promote dignity, respect and constructive dialogue in public meetings and community engagement.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the Ohio State House and Senate.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

KC: rns
3/23/2026

