

RESOLUTION 2023-03

PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN THE CITY OF BARNWELL

WHEREAS, a recent national survey found that 93% of Americans believe that incivility is a problem, with 68% considering it a "major" problem and 74% believing that incivility is increasing in America;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Barnwell (the "Council"), the governing body of the City of Barnwell, South Carolina (the "Municipality"), 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;

WHEREAS, the Council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the Municipality;

WHEREAS, the Members of Council, as elected representatives of the community and 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, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the Council has determined to adopt this resolution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The City of Barnwell pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body.

The elected officials of the Council enact this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the City of Barnwell.

This pledge ensures all communication — both spoken and written — to be open, honest and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

This pledge ensures mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success.

This pledge ensures opportunities for finding common ground and engaging in civil discussion to seek solutions while actively listening and thoughtfully participating.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR MEETING this 3rd day of April, 2023.

Mayor

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

ATTEST:

City of Barnwell Clerk