



Resolution regarding
Rules of Conduct and Decorum

Whereas, the New York State Open Meetings Law (Article 7, Public Officers Law) gives members of the public the right to attend meetings of public bodies but does not give the public the right to speak or otherwise participate at those meetings, except at public hearings and under other limited circumstances, and

Whereas, the New York State Committee on Open Government has agreed that a public body can adopt reasonable rules that treat members of the public equally, and

Whereas, the New York State Committee on Open Government has stated that any such rules could serve as a basis for preventing verbal interruptions, shouting or other outbursts, as well as slanderous or obscene language or signs, and that a public body could regulate actions of the public attending meetings so as not to interfere with meetings or prevent others in attendance from observing or hearing the deliberative process,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) hereby adopts the following rules for public participation at meetings of the COMIDA:

1. Public participation at meetings of the COMIDA Board shall be limited to the public participation segment of the agenda of COMIDA or at the invitation of the chair with regard to applications under consideration.
2. Public comment, whether during the public participation segment of the COMIDA meeting or during a duly designated public hearing, shall be limited to two minutes per person. An individual's time may not be given or traded to other speakers or reserved for other portions of the meeting.
3. Any person wishing to speak at a public meeting during the public participation segment or during a public hearing must sign the sign-in sheet upon entering the room, when such sign-in sheet is available, indicating his or her intention to speak, which sheet will be used by the Chair or the presiding officer to recognize speakers.
4. Comments must relate to the purpose of the public hearing or to legitimate COMIDA business.
5. Chair or the presiding officer shall act as timekeeper or shall designate COMIDA staff as timekeeper.

6. Members of COMIDA, speakers and audience members must observe proper decorum. Any statement made during the meeting or during a public hearing by the Chair, members of the COMIDA Board and staff, or members of the general public shall not involve personal, impertinent, or slanderous attacks on individuals, regardless of whether the individual so attacked is an elected official, a COMIDA Board or staff, or a member of the general public.
7. The Chair or the presiding officer shall control the meeting. The use of profane, vulgar, inflammatory, threatening, abusive, or disparaging language or racial or ethnic slurs directed at the Chair, members of the COMIDA or staff and members of the general public, or statements by a person attending the meeting which are not made during the public participation segment of the agenda or during a public hearing, shall not be tolerated.
8. Banners, flyers or other signs are not permitted in the meeting room. Distribution of flyers in the meeting room is also not permitted.
9. Any person who disregards the directives of the Chair or the presiding officer in enforcing the rules or who generally conducts himself or herself in a boisterous or inappropriate manner while addressing the COMIDA Board and disturbs the peace at a meeting, will be barred from further participation and forfeit any balance of time remaining for his or her comments.
10. The above rules shall take effect at the next meeting of the COMIDA after the adoption of these rules.

Adopted October 16, 2007