

1 Introduced by Council Member White and Co-Sponsored by Council Member
2 Johnson and amended by the Rules Committee:

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5 **ORDINANCE 2024-871-E**

6 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE COUNCIL RULES;
7 AMENDING COUNCIL RULE 4.505 (DISRUPTION OF
8 MEETING), PART 5 (RULES OF DECORUM), CHAPTER 4
9 (PROCEDURES), *COUNCIL RULES*, TO CLARIFY THE RULE
10 REGARDING DISPLAY OR WAVING OF SIGNS DURING
11 COUNCIL MEETINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

14 **Section 1. Amending Council Rule 4.505 (Disruption of**
15 **Meeting), Part 5 (Rules of Decorum), Chapter 4 (Procedures), Council**
16 **Rules.** Rule 4.505 (Disruption of Meeting), Part 5 (Rules of Decorum),
17 Chapter 4 (Procedures), *Council Rules*, is hereby amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **CHAPTER 4. PROCEDURES**

20 * * *

21 **PART 5. RULES OF DECORUM**

22 * * *

23 **RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING**

24 Any person who disrupts a Council meeting may be forthwith barred,
25 removed, or otherwise ejected, in the discretion of the presiding
26 officer, from further attendance at that meeting. If necessary due
27 to the nature of the disruption, the audience may be cleared from the
28 Council Chambers or meeting location in the discretion of the
29 presiding officer. Furthermore, the presiding officer shall expect
30 audience members and speakers to conduct themselves with civility and
31 shall expect audience members to refrain from threatening behavior

1 or language. The presiding officer may call upon the Sergeant-At-Arms
2 to enforce directions given by the presiding officer to address
3 violations of this Rule.

4
5 Disruption of a meeting includes the following types of behaviors:

- 6 1) Any form of political campaigning or electioneering regarding a
7 specific candidate or group of candidates in City elections;
- 8 2) Impeding the orderly progress of the meeting by shouting,
9 yelling, whistling, chanting, singing, dancing, clapping, foot
10 stomping, snapping fingers, cheering, jeering, using artificial
11 noise makers or musical instruments, waving signs of any size,
12 or engaging in any other display of excessive noise, sounds, or
13 movement;
- 14 3) Displaying ~~or waving~~ signs of any sort, except where used to
15 support the speaker's presentation at the podium, and only where
16 the sign is 21 inches by 21 inches or smaller in size and cannot
17 be displayed in a manner which unreasonably obstructs the view
18 of the dais for any member of the audience, regardless of
19 message;
- 20 4) Audible noise from cellphones or other electronic devices;
- 21 5) Consumption of alcohol or controlled substances;
- 22 6) Making vulgar or offensive remarks or gestures, or using
23 threatening language or gestures, including but not limited to
24 pantomiming discharging a firearm, choking, or throat-cutting;
- 25 7) Refusing to stop speaking when his or her time has expired or
26 is otherwise directed by the presiding officer to do so due to
27 disruptive behavior as described herein;
- 28 8) Returning to the meeting after having been removed or ejected,
29 or attempting to do so.

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31 "Council meeting" includes regular meetings of Council, standing

1 committees, special or select committees, sub-committees or any other
2 public meeting presided over by a Council Member.

3 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
4 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
5 without the Mayor's signature.

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7 Form Approved:

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9 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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