

1 Introduced by the Council Member Newby and amended by the Rules  
2 Committee:

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5 **ORDINANCE 2022-162-E**

6 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE COUNCIL RULES;  
7 AMENDING RULE 4.505 (DISRUPTION OF MEETING),  
8 *COUNCIL RULES*, TO STRIKE THE CONTENTS OF THE  
9 SECTION AND REPLACE IT WITH NEW LANGUAGE TO  
10 CLARIFY DISRUPTIVE TYPES OF BEHAVIOR; PROVIDING  
11 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

14 **Section 1. Rule 4.505 (Disruption of Meeting), Council**  
15 **Rules.** Rule 4.505 (Disruption of Meeting), *Council Rules*, is hereby  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 **PART 5. RULES OF DECORUM.**

18 \* \* \*

19 **Rule 4.505. Disruption of Meeting.**

20 ~~Any person, not a Council Member, making personal, impertinent or~~  
21 ~~slandorous remarks or who shall become boisterous while the Council is in~~  
22 ~~session, shall forthwith be barred from further audience before the Council~~  
23 ~~by the presiding officer in his/her discretion. No demonstrations of~~  
24 ~~approval or disapproval from the audience shall be permitted, and if such~~  
25 ~~demonstrations are made, the audience shall be cleared from the Council~~  
26 ~~Chambers. The presiding officer shall call upon the Sergeant At Arms to~~  
27 ~~enforce directions given by the presiding officer for any violation of this~~  
28 ~~Rule.~~

29 Any person who disrupts a Council meeting may be forthwith barred,  
30 removed, or otherwise ejected, in the discretion of the presiding officer,  
31 from further attendance at that meeting. If necessary due to the nature of

1 the disruption, the audience may be cleared from the Council Chambers or  
2 meeting location in the discretion of the presiding officer. Furthermore,  
3 the presiding officer shall expect audience members and speakers to  
4 conduct themselves with civility and shall expect audience members  
5 to refrain from threatening behavior or language. The presiding officer  
6 may call upon the Sergeant-At-Arms to enforce directions given by the  
7 presiding officer to address violations of this Rule.

8 Disruption of a meeting includes the following types of behaviors:

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

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28 "Council meeting" includes regular meetings of Council, standing committees,  
29 special or select committees, sub-committees or any other public meeting  
30 presided over by a Council Member.

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

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6 Form Approved:

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9                           /s/ Paige H. Johnston

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Margaret M. Sidman

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