Reviving Civility in Our Cities

Mayors Innovation Project

Winter Meeting

January 27, 2018

Raquel Goodrich
Deputy Director
Weber Shandwick
Annual Civility in America Survey

PROBLEM WITH CIVILITY IN AMERICA TODAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Not a problem</th>
<th>Minor problem</th>
<th>Major problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Not a problem
- Minor problem
- Major problem
Weber Shandwick
Annual Civility in America Survey

“INCIVILITY IN AMERICA HAS RISEN TO CRISIS LEVELS”
(% Completely/mostly agree)

2013: 70%
2014: 65%
January 2016: 70%
December 2016: 75%

△ Significantly higher than January 2016
“THE U.S. IS LOSING STATURE AS A CIVIL NATION”

(% Completely/mostly agree)

2014: 73%
January 2016: 74%
December 2016: 73%
Rise of Hate Groups

There are 917 hate groups operating in the U.S. This number is at a near-historic high, rising from 892 in 2015 to 917 in 2017.
Why Civil Discourse

Civil Discourse helps to:

- **Understand** and be understood by others;
- Uncover **multiple perspectives** rather than become entrenched in either/or thinking;
- Collectively **improve the critical and creative thinking skills** of all involved in the discourse, including our own;
- **Learn** as well as to teach;
- Move beyond taking sides and instead **working collaboratively** to uncover real solutions to problems; and
- **Let go** of the need to compete or to “win.”
The National Institute for Civil Discourse brings people together for civil conversations to find common ground on divisive issues.
Three Target Groups

- Elected Officials
- Public
- Media
Revive Civility Communities

1. Proclamation
2. Civility Pledge
3. Civility Conversations
4. Citizen Action
Revive Civility Proclamation

City Header

WHEREAS, civil discourse is the free and respectful exchange of different ideas in a way that respects and affirms all persons, while hearing their perspectives; and

WHEREAS, heated rhetoric and a dramatic shift away from collaboration leaves us unable to solve the challenges confronting our community; and

WHEREAS, civility reduces rudeness, ridicule, and lack of respect for the open exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, civility improves our well-being, restores trust, and encourages Americans to participate in building a brighter future for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, civility assists in the process of working together to create lasting solutions to our most pressing challenges, while fostering respect among opposing groups; and

WHEREAS, community members should feel comfortable and respected while exploring worldviews outside their own; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of civility and how it improves personal relationships leading to greater civil discourse, in recognition of the University of Arizona’s National Institute for Civil Discourse’s initiative, would like to invite all members of our community to exercise civility and respect toward each other and participate in reviving civility together.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [Name of Mayor], Mayor of the City of [City Name, State] do hereby proclaim [Month], 2017, to be Revive Civility Month in this community and encourage all residents to practice civility by listening respectfully to people who have different views, avoiding language that is insulting or derogatory to others and supporting efforts to work together across ideological and political lines.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of [City Name, State] to be affixed this [XX day] of [Month], 2017.

[Name], Mayor (or appropriate official)

Official City Seal
Tucson Revives Civility

REVIVE CIVILITY TUCSON
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017 FROM 5 - 7 PM
AT THE LOFT CINEMA
“Communities work best when we come together and engage in respectful, civil conversation; not ones in which we all agree, but in which we can disagree without being disagreeable. This takes active listening, empathy, compassion and respect.

The Revive Civility Cities Initiative helps to build these skills with our community members and elected officials. We owe it to our future generations to move toward the ‘us’ instead of the ‘versus them’, so that we can start to find solutions within our community and our nation.” – Mayor Rothschild
US Conference of Mayors Resolution

Mayors United to Revive Civility and Respect

Resolution Number: 23 - Passed on June 26, 2017

Sponsored by:
The Honorable Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Mayor of Sacramento
The Honorable Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno
The Honorable Jeff Williams, Mayor of Arlington
The Honorable John A. McNally, Mayor of Youngstown
The Honorable John Giles, Mayor of Mesa
The Honorable Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis
The Honorable Mark R. Holland, Mayor of Kansas City
The Honorable Mark Stodola, Mayor of Little Rock
The Honorable Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston
The Honorable Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans
The Honorable Rebecca Casper, Mayor of Idaho Falls
The Honorable Richard J. Berry, Mayor of Albuquerque
The Honorable Roy D. Buol, Mayor of Dubuque
The Honorable Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin
The Honorable Sylvester 'Sly' James Jr., Mayor of Kansas City
The Honorable Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland
The Honorable William A. Bell Sr., Mayor of Birmingham
The Honorable Allison Silberberg, Mayor of Alexandria
Revive Civility Communities

**Alabama**
Mayor William Bell, Birmingham, AL

**Arizona**
Mayor John Giles, Mesa, AZ
Mayor Jonathon Rothschild, Tucson, AZ

**Arkansas**
Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock, AR

**California**
Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento, CA
Mayor Kevin Faulconer, San Diego, CA

**Idaho**
Mayor Rebecca Casper, Idaho Falls, ID
Mayor Shelby Rognstad, Sandpoint, ID

**Iowa**
Mayor Roy Buol, Dubuque, IA
Mayor Robert Andeweg, Urbandale, IA
Revive Civility Communities

Kansas
Mayor Mark Holland, Kansas City, KS
Mayor Usha Reddi, Manhattan, KS

Louisiana
Mayor Mitchell Landrieu, New Orleans, LA

Maine
Mayor David Rollins, Augusta
Mayor Joseph Baldacci, Bangor
Mayor Ethan Strimling, Portland

Massachusetts
Mayor Martin Walsh, Boston

Missouri
Mayor Sylvester James, Jr., Kansas City
Mayor Lyda Krewson, St. Louis

Nevada
Mayor Hillary Schieve, Reno

New Mexico
Mayor Richard Berry, Albuquerque
Revive Civility Communities

Ohio
Mayor Dan Horrigan, Akron,
Mayor Andrew Ginther, Columbus
Commissioner Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County
Council President Debbie Johnson,
Upper Arlington
Mayor John McNally, Youngstown

Oregon
Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland

Texas
Mayor Jeff Williams, Arlington
Mayor Steve Adler, Austin

Utah
Mayor Ben McAdams, Salt Lake County

Virginia
Mayor Allison Silberberg, Alexandria
Community Spotlight:
Bar Harbor, Maine

Bar Harbor Civility Workshop
How do we encourage civil discourse in Bar Harbor?
March 2, 7pm
Bar Harbor Municipal Building
Success Stories

• Previous work by NICD in communities has led to:
  – Engaged over 150,000 participants in community conversations (national)
  – Increase in bipartisan legislation (OH, ME & AZ)
  – Public-private partnership leading to creation of a housing development for transition age youth with a mental health diagnosis (DC)
  – Implementation team raised $300,000 for action plan implementation (Sacramento)
How Civil Discourse Helps You

• Builds relationships
• More satisfied & engaged constituents
• Better public participation processes
• More creative solutions
• Increased bipartisanship
• Greater efficiency
• Support Additional Revive Civility Communities
• Select 5 Communities for a “Deep Dive”
• Help to Build Capacity in Communities
Best Practices

• Create conditions for people to listen for understanding and exchange ideas
• Model civility in your leadership & public meetings
• Dedicate energy and resources
• Partner with citizens who can take the lead
  – What can citizens do; what can town officials do?
• Make your work highly visible in the community
  – Partner with media, shared websites, local events
Thank You!

Raquel Goodrich
Deputy Director
National Institute for Civil Discourse

www.nicd.arizona.edu
www.ReviveCivility.org

Email: rgoodrich@email.arizona.edu
Phone: (520) 621-0082