

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 92-33

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT RULES OF DECORUM FOR
THE CONDUCT OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford has never adopted an ordinance which sets forth the procedures and rules of decorum for members of the Township Committee, other employees of the Township of Cranford and the general public at large; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford feels that the adoption of an ordinance clearly setting forth the Rules of Decorum for Township Committee meetings is in the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY:

Section 1. General Provisions.

Members of the Township Committee shall observe order and decorum during Township Committee meetings. A member of the Township Committee shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings of the Committee nor disturb any member while speaking nor refuse to obey the orders of the Chairman. Township Committee members shall inform the Chairman before leaving their seats during a Committee meeting.

Section 2. Township Staff.

Members of the township staff shall observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to the Township Committee in section 1 above.

Section 3. Defamatory and threatening language prohibited.

Any person(s) making personal, defamatory or profane remarks or who willfully utters loud, threatening or abusive language or engages in any disorderly which disturbs or disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting shall be called to order by the Chairman. If such conduct continues, the Chairman of the Township Committee, at his discretion, may order such person removed from that meeting by the Sergeant at Arms

Section 4. Length of presentation.

Persons addressing the Township Committee shall be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes for their presentations.

Section 5. Disorderly conduct.

No person in the audience shall engage in disorderly conduct such as hand clapping, stamping of feet, whistling, using profane language, shouting or other similar demonstrations which may disturb the peace and order of the Township Committee meeting.

Section 6. Repeated disturbance; removal from meeting.

All persons shall, at the request of the Chairman, be silent. If, after receiving a warning from the Chairman, a person persists in disrupting the meeting, the Chairman may order that person to leave the meeting. If he or she does not remove himself or herself, the Chairman may order the Sergeant at Arms to remove him or her.

Section 7. Sergeant at Arms.

The Chief of Police, or such member of the Department of police as the Chairman may designate, shall be Sergeant at Arms at the Township Committee meetings. The Sergeant at Arms shall carry out all orders given by the Chairman for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Township Committee meeting. On instruction of the Chairman, the Sergeant at Arms shall remove from the meeting any person who disturbs the proceedings of the Committee.

Section 8. Resisting removal.

Any person who resists removal by the Sergeant at Arms shall be charged with violating N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8, Disrupting meetings and processions.

Section 9. Recording, taping or photography.

There shall be no recording, taping or photography of any Township Committee meeting by any means whatsoever without the express prior approval of the Chairman of the Township Committee.

Section 10. Rules of conduct.

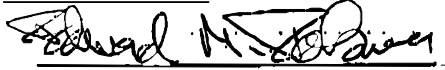
Township Committee meetings shall be conducted pursuant to Robert's Rules of order.

Section 11. When effective.

This Article shall become effective upon publication as provided by law.


Section 12. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.



Edward M. Robinson, Chairman
Township Committee

ATTEST:


Arlene M. Gigon
Township Clerk

APPROVED ON FIRST READING, AUGUST 25, 1992

ADOPTED ON FINAL READING, SEPTEMBER 8, 1992