

City of Rochelle – Social Media Comment Policy

a. In a designated public social media forum created by the City, the City shall delete or reject posts from users that contain content that is obscene, threatening, harassing, maliciously defamatory, copyrighted or commercial. City employees should immediately remove any comment which violates any local, state, or federal law regarding discrimination, harassment, or violence.

b. In a limited public social media forum created by the City, in addition to any other limitations imposed on the specific site by the City, the following posts or comments shall be removed or deleted. Repeated violations will result in blocking the offending individual from the particular social media site.

a. Obscene, vulgar, threatening, harassing, or maliciously defamatory comments.

b. Comments not related to the specified subject or, although portions relate to the specified subject, include substantial unrelated material;

c. If applicable, comments from persons or groups not within the permitted commentator group or other limitations of the limited forum;

d. Comments promoting or opposing any person campaigning for election to a political office or promoting or opposing any ballot proposition;

e. Comments promoting or advertising a business or commercial transaction or containing copyrighted material; or

f. Overtly self-promoting comments.

g. Information that may tend to compromise safety or security.

h. Contains personal information such as address, birthdate, medical information or social security number.

c. Comments shall not be deleted or removed based upon the views expressed. Comments will not be edited. Applicable limitations should be posted on the social media site. Hyperlinks may be prohibited in their entirety, or they may be deleted or removed where the linked site includes material falling within the above listed prohibitions.

d. Unless the City specifically states on a social media system that communications on that specific system shall be considered as official communications with the City for a specific purpose, communications made through a social media system will in no way constitute a legal or official notice or comment by or to the City or by or to any official or employee of the City for any purpose. For example, a post or comment that asks that the City provide public records will not be considered a public records request until being sent through the proper channels. Likewise, a social media post or comment related to a business license application or building permit will not be considered by the City. Comments specific to a City license, application, permit, project, etc., should be submitted directly to the appropriate City official, department or division, as indicated at www.cityofrochelle.net.