

## **Code of Conduct Policy for Manhattan Community Board Members**

### [Office of the Manhattan Borough President](#)

The Office of the Manhattan Borough President is committed to ensuring that all public meetings in which people gather to perform the business of local government are conducted with the highest levels of cordiality, professionalism, and respect. This is especially true of community boards, where such conduct is critical for efficient and productive deliberations. The MPBO will work to ensure such standards are adhered to. The extent to which board members live up to these goals will be considered in the re-appointment process. The following Code of Conduct further details expectations for community board members.

- **Attendance:** Community board members are expected to attend and participate regularly in full board and assigned committee meetings. Additionally, community board members are expected to attend and participate in mandatory annual trainings offered by the Office of the Manhattan Borough President, including Conflicts of Interest, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Implicit Bias and Discrimination trainings.
- **Non-Discrimination:** Discrimination and harassment of any kind are strictly prohibited. community board members are expected to abide by the Office of the Manhattan Borough President's Equal Employment Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Prevention policies as well as the New York City Human Rights Law.
- **Respectfulness and Professionalism:** All community board members are expected to conduct themselves professionally on the board, and act respectfully toward all individuals whom they interact with in the context of their role as a community board member. Community board members are strictly prohibited from threatening, intimidating, or harassing other members, Community board employees, or the public. This mandate of civil behavior extends to all in- person, written and virtual communication including all forms of social media. Members must refrain from personal attacks on fellow members, especially criticisms that explicitly or implicitly invoke race, gender or any other personal characteristic. Where board members disagree on an issue before the board, they must engage in respectful, collegial debate and discussion within the confines of the board.
- **Eligibility:** Community board members are required to notify the Office of the Manhattan Borough President of any changes that may affect the member's eligibility to serve on the community board (e.g. change of residence to outside of the community district, accepting employment with an appointing City Council Member, etc).

**Conflicts of Interest:** Community board members must abide by the New York City's conflicts of interest law (Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter) and all relevant guidance from the Conflicts of Interest Board, including but not limited to the requirement that a member must disclose a conflict and abstain from voting on a matter that impacts the member's private interest, as well as the prohibition on the use of a city title or resources for political activity.