

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-24**

### **APPROVING POLICY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Florence Township Fire District No.1 (“BOFC”) recognizes the value of public comment on issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on matters of community interest.

**WHEREAS**, to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment and consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act, the BOFC shall provide a period for public comment at every regularly scheduled and advertised meeting of the BOFC of Florence Township Fire District No. 1.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the following is the policy of the Board of Fire Commissioners Florence Township Fire District No.1 for public participation.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to three (3) minutes per individual. In the discretion of the Chairperson, the three-minute period for public comment may be extended. Individuals engaging in public comment will only have one (1) opportunity during the Meeting to publicly comment.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. A participant must be recognized by the Chairperson and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate.
2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes’ duration.
3. No participant may speak more than once during the period of public comment.
4. All statements shall be directed to the Chairperson; no participant may address or question an individual District Commissioner or any of the BOFC’s Service Providers.
5. Members of the public are encouraged to provide a copy of written statements to the Board of Fire Commissioners for reference.
6. The Chairperson may:
  - a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant’s statement when it exceeds the 3-minute limit or is abusive, obscene, defamatory, or is irrelevant to the business of the BOFC;
  - b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe a reasonable decorum.
  - c. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; and
  - d. Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or the efficient administration of the BOFC’s business.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be placed on our Department website upon passage.

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I, John Fratinardo, Secretary of the Florence Township Fire Dist. No. 1, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Resolution approved by the Fire District at their June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting.

Governing Body Recorded Vote

Board Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
John Fratinardo				
Andrew Popso				
Jason Ryan				
Robert Schoen				
Scott Arnold				

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Jason Ryan, Chairman

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John Fratinardo, Secretary