MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
MADISON COUNTY, KY
RESOLUTION 2024-95

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS OPERATED BY MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT

WHEREAS, because many residents and other stakeholders utilize social media for news and communications, Madison County Fiscal Court (the "County") and its departments have developed social media accounts to help inform the public about the services provided by the County. Comments left on the County social media sites reflect the views of the commenters, not the views of the Fiscal Court or its officials. Communication through County related social media is considered a public record under KRS 171.410(1) and will be managed under the terms of KRS 171.410 through 171.740 and 725 KAR Chapter 1; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to implement public engagement guidelines for Madison County social media accounts operated by the County; and

WHEREAS, the County is committed to fully complying with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and other similar legal obligations surrounding free speech. As such, there may be times when what some people perceive to be offensive comments left by members of the public will remain visible on our social media posts, if such comments are legally protected speech; and

WHEREAS, the County has an important interest in assuring the accuracy and consistency of information associated with its social media sites. These terms and conditions establish guidelines for the public's use of the County's social media sites in a way that balances these values; and

WHEREAS, the County believes that factual, civil, and productive discussions provide the best environment for residents and other stakeholders to understand the work of county government; and

WHEREAS, comments made by the public to these sites are reviewed and, while comments will not be edited by County personnel, a comment may be deleted/hidden if it violates the public engagement guidelines as outlined as follows:

1. Any content that is in violation of federal, state, local laws or is otherwise unlawful.
2. Comments not topically related to the particular site or blog article being commented upon.
3. Profane language or content.
4. Content that promotes, fosters or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, age, religion, gender identity, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.
5. Sexual content or links to sexual content.
6. Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity.
7. Harassing language or threats of physical or bodily harm or to public safety.
8. Information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public, County employees, or public systems.

9. Content that violates the legal ownership interest of any other party.
10. Comments in support of or opposition to political campaigns or ballot measures.
11. Content that attempts to solicit business or other commercial activity.
12. Defamatory, libelous, offensive, or demeaning material.
13. Engaging in combative exchanges.
14. Nonpublic information of any kind.
15. Personal, sensitive, or confidential material of any kind.
16. Items involved in litigation or potential litigation.
17. Malicious or harmful software.
18. Comments posted by automatic software programs (i.e. bots).
19. Disruptively repetitive content.

WHEREAS, content on all social media accounts operated by the County will be archived in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the County commits to providing training to its employees on this policy and relevant freedom of speech caselaw and also commits to hold employees accountable if they violate policy or law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FISCAL COURT DOES HEREBY APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZES THE JUDGE EXECUTIVE AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY.

Motion made by Lochmueller, seconded by Combs.

Vote:	Yes	No
Judge Executive Reagan Taylor	✓	
Magistrate James Brian Combs	✓	
Magistrate Stephen Lochmueller	✓	
Magistrate Billy Ray Hughes		absent
Magistrate Tom Botkin		absent

Signed:

Reagan Taylor
Madison County Judge Executive

9-24-2024
Date

Attested:

Kenny Barger
Madison County Clerk

9-24-2024
Date