

Resolution Establishing a Protocol for Citizens Privilege of the Floor

Whereas, the New York State Open Meeting Law (Article 7, Public Officers Law) gives members of the public the right to attend meetings of public bodies but does not give the public the right to speak or otherwise participate at those meetings, except at public hearings and under other limited circumstances, and

Whereas, New York State Town Law authorizes a town board to enact protocols, rules and regulations regarding the conduct of public meetings and public hearings conducted by the town board, and the New York State Committee on Open Government has agreed that a public body can adopt reasonable rules that treat members of the public equally, and

WHEREAS, the Dryden Town Board finds it useful and informative to allow citizens the opportunity to speak at Town Board meetings, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to create a safe and productive environment for all persons attending and participating in Town Board meetings, and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens are treated fairly and equally, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Dryden Town Board hereby immediately adopts the following **Protocol for Speaking at Citizen's Privilege**:

- Each speaker will have three minutes to speak. Time may not be transferred from one speaker to another or reserved for a later time in the same meeting.
- Speakers must direct their comments to the Town Board.
- The use of racial, ethnic, or homophobic slurs; lewd, obscene, threatening, abusive, or profane language will not be tolerated. Speakers who violate this rule, will have their time immediately revoked and will be asked to leave the meeting.
- It is helpful, but not required, for speakers to provide their name and address.
- Written materials may be provided to the Clerk and will be incorporated into the official record.