

Statement from Mayor Burke
Council Meeting August 26, 2014

It's important that as we take advantage of the great American privilege of self-govern ourselves, that we exercise self-control and give due respect to all voices. We must be able to peacefully and respectfully disagree.

Last week, the members of the Mayor and Council were called upon to make an important decision regarding the leadership of the police department. For some reason, emotions ran much higher regarding this decision than is normal.

As the time for making this decision approached, we, the members of the Mayor and Council, faced increasing, and increasingly emotional, feedback from citizens expressing all points of view.

As the decision was made, the emotion reached a fevered pitch, and some, uncharacteristically, breached decorum and shouted insults at the decision makers. Shouting insults at the Mayor and Council will always be out of order, and I will always move forcefully to maintain decorum and respectful discussion.

However, and in that emotionally charged context, I uncharacteristically acted in a harsher fashion that, in hindsight, I acknowledge prudence would have dictated.

Going forward, I pledge to redouble my efforts to gracefully maintain decorum at these meetings. However, you who attended our meetings have a corresponding duty to understand the necessity to orderly participate in the manner afforded to you by the rules of our proceedings.

Unlike most cities, we allow two opportunities at our meeting for the public to comment. Please take advantage of them. Attempting to circumvent these procedures is unfair to the Mayor and Council and those others in attendance who do wish to respectfully observe and participate.

JB Burke