

Simplified language for Board consideration:

Guidelines for public communications outside Board meetings:

In communicating with the public outside of Board meetings, members of the Board must balance their personal rights of free speech with their roles as members of the Board.

- On the one hand, as citizens, they are free to speak or write in public on any subject as and how they wish.
- On the other hand, as members of the Board, they are urged to be respectful of other Board members in speaking or writing publicly about Board matters.

In the latter case, communicating publicly about Board matters outside of Board meetings, there are two distinct roles:

- **The Board Chair:** Only the Chair (or designee) is authorized to communicate publicly for the Board; and
- **Other Board members:** All other members of the Board are entitled to communicate publicly on Board matters only for themselves as individual members.

To avoid misunderstandings, Board members (other than the Chair or designee) who speak or write publicly outside of Board meetings are urged to clarify in each instance that they are expressing views only for themselves as individual members of the Board.

As a matter of courtesy to other members of the Board, individual members are encouraged to apprise Board colleagues of their views on Board matters before communicating them publicly outside of Board meetings.

offered by **John Carroll and John O'Keefe**