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Subject: Social Media Commenting Policy	Effective Date: 3/27/13 Revision Dates:	Approval Board of Chosen Freeholders

I. PURPOSE

The County of Morris encourages citizen engagement through submission of comments, questions or concerns on its social media sites, which are established as moderated online discussion sites, not public forums. This policy has been adopted to establish rules and guidelines for the use of these moderated online discussion sites.

II. POLICY

The following verbiage shall be posted on all social media sites utilized by the County of Morris, its departments, agencies, commissions or authorities, to the extent made possible by the particular social media platform.

The County of Morris shares notices about county government and its activities via social media to reach a broader audience and so that interested citizens can also share our information. We encourage you to submit your comments, questions or concerns, but please note this is a moderated online discussion site and not a public forum.

Morris County's contractual obligations with our social media platforms require it to enforce their policies with regard to posted comments. The guidelines below are, in part, Morris County's effort to comply with those obligations.

Basically, be courteous, respectful and relevant. Remember that your comments may be read by persons of any age, and are subject to open public records laws.

For those who like more detail, we've established the following guidelines. If your post violates them, it will be removed.

Once posted, the County of Morris reserves the right to delete submissions that contain:

- vulgar language;
- personal attacks of any kind;
- offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial or religious group.

Further, the County also reserves the right to delete comments that:



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- are spam or include links to other sites;
- are clearly off topic;
- include identical or repeated comments;
- contain sexual content or links to sexual content;
- advocate illegal activity;
- promote particular services, products, or political candidates or organizations;
- infringe on copyrights or trademarks;
- have the potential to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems;
- are made by persons identifiably under the age of 13;
- contain personally identifiable medical information; or
- contain personal personally identifiable information (PII) such as email addresses, social security numbers, phone numbers or any other information for which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Users who violate this policy may be banned from future commenting or blocked from the social site where the violation occurred.

Please note that the comments expressed on any County of Morris social media site do not reflect the opinions and position of Morris County government or its officers and employees.

We recognize that the internet and social media are available 24 x 7. Comments are welcome at any time. However, due to the need to manage resources, questions and comments will typically be responded to during normal business hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions concerning the operation of this online moderated discussion, please contact the Office of Public Information at webmaster@co.morris.nj.us or use our Feedback Form which can be found at MorrisCountyNJ.gov.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall be posted on, and apply to, all social media sites utilized by the County of Morris, its departments, agencies, commissions or authorities, to the extent made possible by the particular social media platform.