

## City of Gaithersburg Social Media Commenting Guidelines

We encourage and welcome your comments.

City of Gaithersburg social media accounts present matters of interest in Gaithersburg, Maryland to residents, businesses and visitors. All comments and posts, including those made by the public, are subject to public records laws, including Maryland Public Information Act requests.

City of Gaithersburg social media accounts are not monitored 24/7. Follows, likes and shares are not endorsements.

Once posted, the City reserves the right to delete any comments, including but not limited to those that contain vulgar or disruptive language or content, personal attacks of any kind or offensive content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation. Further, the City also reserves the right to (a) delete comments that are "spam" or include links to other sites; (b) are clearly off topic; (c) advocate illegal activity; (d) promote particular services, products, candidates or political organizations; (e) infringe on copyrights or trademarks; (f) identify personally identifying information (PII) of any individual, including but not limited to contact information, medical information and confidential financial information; (g) contain sexual content or links to sexual content; (h) include information that may compromise the safety, security or proceedings of public systems or any criminal or civil investigations; or (i) are outdated.

This page is not an appropriate forum for registering allegations of criminal activity or other accusations against individuals. Accusations that a particular individual or party is guilty of any criminal conduct or immoral activity or defamatory material will not be permitted. If a person believes there is legitimate basis for complaint against the City, employees or any third party, then they should use appropriate means of registering the complaint, such filing a complaint, per City Code §17-2.1, through the City's [Whistleblower Program](#) or calling 911.

The City does not endorse, support, sanction, encourage, verify or agree with the public comments, messages, posts, opinions, advertisements, videos, promoted content, external hyperlinks, linked websites (or the information, products or services contained therein), statements, commercial products, processes or services posted on this page.

The purpose of Gaithersburg social media accounts is not to facilitate third-party ticket sales. Because ticketing scams have been reported, the City emphasizes that all ticket sales from third-party sellers are at the buyer's own risk and does not recommend such purchases from third-party sellers. The City also reserves the right in its discretion to remove any third-party ticket sales postings from its social media accounts.

If you have any questions concerning the operation of this online moderated discussion site, please contact the City of Gaithersburg Public Information Office at 301-258-6310.

Please visit the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) for information on how to request specific government services, or e-mail [cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov).

Thank you for your compliance with this policy.

Social media sites are third-party sites and have terms of service and policies that are not governed by the City of Gaithersburg. The terms of services for the social media sites used by the City of Gaithersburg can be found below:

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/legal/terms](http://www.facebook.com/legal/terms)

Twitter – [www.twitter.com/tos](http://www.twitter.com/tos)

Instagram – [www.instagram.com/legal/terms](http://www.instagram.com/legal/terms)

Pinterest – [www.pinterest.com//about/terms](http://www.pinterest.com//about/terms)

YouTube – [www.youtube.com/t/terms](http://www.youtube.com/t/terms)

The City of Gaithersburg reserves the right to modify these commenting guidelines at any time. Thank you for your compliance with this policy.

*(Updated 12/6/2018)*