

EL PASO COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RULES OF DECORUM

1. Attendees will turn off all electrical devices such as: cellular telephones, pagers, palm pilots, computers, games, and MP3, Ipod, or other music or video devices.
2. Attendees will wear appropriate attire. The following items are prohibited: shorts, cutoffs, tank tops, and hats.
3. No food, drinks, or gum are allowed in the meeting room.
4. The following rules apply to anyone addressing the commission on any item, including a grievance:
 - a. The commission may place time limits on speakers, grievants, or representatives;
 - b. The commission may limit the number of witnesses that may be presented;
 - c. The commission may prohibit repetitive, redundant, or irrelevant testimony or comments; and
 - d. All speakers, grievants, and/or representatives must treat the commission and other participants with appropriate respect and courtesy. This means yelling, rude comments, and disobeying the direct instructions of the commission will not be tolerated.

Penal Code Provisions

Section 38.13 – Hindering Proceedings by Disorderly Conduct

- (a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally hinders an official proceeding by noise or tumultuous behavior or disturbance.
- (b) A person commits an offense if he recklessly hinders an official proceeding by noise or violent or tumultuous behavior or disturbance and continues after explicit official request to desist.
- (c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Section 42.05 – Disrupting Meeting of Procession

- (a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting, procession, or gathering, he obstructs or interferes with the meeting, procession, or gathering by physical action or verbal utterance.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

Open Meetings Act – Chapter 551, Texas Government Code

A meeting that is “open to the public” under the Open Meetings Act is one that the public is permitted to attend. The act does not entitle the public to choose the items to be discussed or to speak about items on the agenda. A governmental body may, however, give members of the public an opportunity to speak at a public meeting. If it does so, it may set reasonable limits on the number, frequency and length of presentations before it, but it may not unfairly discriminate among speakers for or against a particular point of view.

Violations of these rules may result in the violator being removed from the meeting room, the violator being denied the privilege to speak before the commission, and/or possible criminal charges.