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# Town of Hingham

## Public Comment Policy

The purpose of the Town of Hingham's website and social media pages are to present matters of public interest to Town of Hingham residents, businesses, visitors and other interested parties.

All use of social networking and media by the Town should be consistent with applicable state, federal, and local laws, regulations, and policies including all information technology security policies.

Once posted, the Town reserves the right to delete submissions that contain vulgar language, personal attacks of any kind, or offensive comments that target or disparage any group of people because of some shared characteristic. Any comments viewed as threatening, libelous or harassing are prohibited and subject to deletion. Further, the Town also reserves the right to delete comments that contain the following:

- Off-topic;
- Obscene, pornographic or other offensive/illegal materials or links;
- Sexual comments about, or directed to, anyone;
- Profane language or content ;
- 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;
- Information which may compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems;
- Comments in support of or opposition to political campaigns or ballot measures;
- Defamatory;
- Threatening or harassing;
- Conducts or encourages illegal activity ;
- Personally identifiable information;
- Promotes particular services, products, or political organizations;
- Violates the intellectual property rights of others.

All comments posted on Town-managed social media sites are open for public disclosure and may be retained on file per Massachusetts public records laws.



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Postings on social media sites do not serve as formal requests for service. Any citizen needing a response from the Town should call or visit the appropriate department. However, attempts should be made to respond as best as possible to postings that may be construed as requests to address certain issues and follow-up on the validity of a critical post or suggestion of improvement. Users that are Town residents or businesses will be given priority on follow-ups.

Please note that the comments expressed on this site do not reflect the opinions and position of the Town of Hingham or its officers and employees. To report a violation, please e-mail to [webmaster@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:webmaster@hingham-ma.gov).

Determinations as to whether submissions are in compliance with these guidelines or are to be deleted from Town site(s) shall be in the sole discretion of Town staff.