

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>PPG# 1441</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Board of Fire Commissioners</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>8/10/89</b>

## **POLICY**

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The board recognizes the value of public comment on fire services issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the board will provide a period at the beginning of the meeting during which visitors may make formal presentations. Such presentations should be scheduled in advance.

The board will also allow individuals to express an opinion prior to board action on agenda items. Individuals wishing to be heard by the board shall first be recognized by the chairman. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The board requires that such participants be either residents of the fire district or staff of the fire district or the designee of such residents or staff. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the board shall also be entitled to express an opinion. The chairman may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant. The board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of such rulings.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the chairman will allow any individual to speak to any issue not included on the agenda.

## **REFERENCES**

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Cross Reference:

Policy 1420 Meetings—Agenda

Legal Reference:

RCW 42.30.030 Meetings declared open and public

RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions-Procedures