

SUBJECT:
Advocacy on Matters
Set for Public Hearings

POLICY NUMBER 300-04
ADOPTED 8-10-83
REVISED 2-24-88
REVISED 11-28-01

It is the policy of the City Council of the City of Oceanside that since decisions on public hearing matters must be based on testimony received at the hearing, the following rules shall apply in relationships between individual members of the City Council, developers or applicants, as well as citizen groups or individual proponents or opponents to a project:

1. When dealing with developers, advocates, applicants or opponents in a non-public meeting, City Councilmembers shall act responsibly in exchanging advice and/or information. Councilmembers shall not give an opinion as to how they will vote on a particular project or development until after the public hearing. Councilmembers shall advise all project proponents or opponents that any information discussed at such a meeting shall be presented on the record at the public hearing on the matter.
2. If any such exchange does occur, on a matter which has been set for public hearing, the City Councilmember shall disclose the nature and context of such exchange, at the next following City Council meeting when the subject application or project is on the Council agenda.
3. In discussing any public hearing matter outside a public meeting, Councilmembers shall be mindful of Brown Act prohibitions against serial meetings.
4. These rules shall also apply to all members of City Commissions, Boards, and Committees (including the Planning Commission and Oceanside Historic Preservation Advisory Commission) which will have to take actions or make a recommendation on applications of development projects, except that such disclosure shall be made at the appropriate meeting of the respective Commission, Board, or Committee.