

Safeguards for POWER Participants

All participants agree to act in good faith in all aspects of POWER's deliberations. POWER encourages the free and open exchange of ideas, views, and information.

Prior to achieving consensus, participants agree not to use specific offers or statements made by another participant outside the group process.

POWER members will speak for the group only with group consensus. Any member who chooses to speak to the media, elected officials, government agencies, etc. without approval of the group should specify that he or she is speaking as an individual and is NOT speaking on behalf of POWER. No member shall claim to be speaking on behalf of the entire community, nor claim to speak for others without their permission.

Personal attacks, unfounded accusations and prejudiced statements (in emails, FaceBook posts, verbally at meetings, etc.) will not be tolerated. POWER guidelines stipulate such conduct as detrimental to the group process and POWER's long range goals and objectives.

Participants at POWER meetings agree to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Be on time.
- Listen as an ally, not as an adversary; listen with an open mind and heart.
- Speak one at a time; interruptions and side conversations are distracting and disrespectful.
- Be concise. In honor of everyone's time, speak only once on a particular issue, unless you have new or different information to share.
- Ask for clarification; do not assume you know what someone means.
- Disagree respectfully and openly, not in private or in scathing emails.
- Avoid character defamation of members, agency representatives, elected officials and community members.
- Focus on the issue at hand, not the speaker.
- Treat others with respect as you would like to be treated.
- Allow ALL members to participate equally—avoid dominating.
- Honor time limits.
- Turn off all cell phones and pagers; take or make calls outside the room unless the group has requested that a call/text/email be made.