



General Social Media Disclaimer

The primary purpose of the City's social media accounts is to communicate news, events and information from the City to residents, businesses, visitors and other interested parties.

The City considers the social media accounts that it creates and maintains, whether developed solely by the City or using a third-party social media resource (e.g., Facebook, Twitter), to be moderated, limited discussion sites and not general public forums. The sites will be moderated by City staff. Discussion topics and information will be initiated by City staff. All posted content (e.g., comments, photos, links) must relate to the particular discussion initiated by the City and be focused on City programs, services, projects, issues, events, and activities.

Any comment posted on City of Shelton social media accounts by anyone other than an authorized City staff member acting on behalf of the City, is the opinion of the commentator or poster only. Publication of a comment or post does not imply endorsement of or agreement by the City of Shelton, nor do such comments necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Shelton City Commission.

The following are prohibited on City of Shelton social media accounts:

1. Posts and comments that include vulgar, offensive, threatening or harassing language, personal attacks or unsupported accusations.
2. Posts and comments not related to the original topic, including random or unintelligible comments.
3. Posts and comments that are not factual or accurate.
4. Posts and comments that promote, foster or perpetuate discrimination on the basis of creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by law.
5. Posts and comments that promote or advertise commercial services, unless the advertising is generated by the third-party social media service in such a manner that the City cannot block the advertising.
6. Political comments promoting or opposing any person campaigning for election to a political office or promoting or opposing ballot propositions.
7. Religious statements, including comments that endorse or oppose any type of religion, religious opinions, or activities.
8. Obscene or sexual content or links to obscene or sexual content.
9. Conduct in violation of any federal, state or local law, or encouragement of illegal activity.
10. Information that could compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems.
11. Content that could violate the legal ownership interest of any other party.
12. Content that could compromise an ongoing investigation.

The City of Shelton reserves the right to:

1. immediately remove posted content that does not comply with this policy;
2. remove posted content and/or comments after 30 days;
3. deny access to City of Shelton social media accounts to any individual who violates the City of Shelton's Social Media Policy at any time, without prior notice;
4. discontinue or delete a discussion thread at any time, without cause or prior notice.

All content added or uploaded to City of Shelton social media accounts will be periodically reviewed by City staff. All content on City of Shelton social media is considered a public record. For that reason, users should refrain from including telephone numbers, home addresses, email addresses, and any other private information in the body of their comment.

Communications and/or requests made through City of Shelton social media accounts in no way constitutes a legal or official notice of or comment to the City of Shelton. For example, a post or comment on a social media site requesting public records will not be considered a public records request to the City, and a post or comment on an issue or topic subject to a noticed comment period will not be considered part of the official record for that issue or topic.

All comments and posts on City of Shelton sites offered through third-party services must comply with any and all terms or statements of use of the specific service (e.g., Facebook, Twitter). The City of Shelton reserves the right to report any violation to the specific service in accordance with the policies of the third-party service.

This policy is subject to change without notice.