



**City of Merriam, Kansas**  
**External Social Media Policy**

The City of Merriam's practice of communicating on external social media channels is provided as a public service. For the purposes of this policy, social media means any facility for online publication and commentary, including without limitation social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor, and content hosting sites such as Flickr and YouTube.

The City of Merriam may update this policy at any time without notice. Any modification is effective at the time it is posted, unless stated otherwise. Use of a City of Merriam social media site after the policy is modified signifies acceptance of the modification.

The City of Merriam does not guarantee that comments posted after business hours will be viewed before the next business day. Communications made on a City of Merriam social media site shall in no way constitute a legal communication or notice. Users should call the appropriate city department to report an emergency, make an open records request, etc.

The City of Merriam does not assume liability for inaccuracies and disclaims liability for ads, videos, promoted content or comments accessible from any external web page. The responsibility of external content or comments rests with the organizations or individuals providing them. Any inclusion of external content or comments on the City of Merriam's external social media accounts (and affiliated department or program accounts) does not imply endorsement by the City of Merriam.

The City of Merriam's social media accounts are subject to the Kansas Open Records Act. Users posting to a City of Merriam social media site give the City the express right to reproduce, use, and distribute the content of their post.

**Social media commenting notice**

We encourage public engagement via comments, concerns, and questions regarding any of the topics on the City of Merriam's social media accounts. While we respect that our residents will have differing opinions on any given topic, posts will be removed at the sole discretion of the City if they:

- Contain profane, disruptive, abusive, obscene or pornographic language or content;
- Promote, foster or perpetuate discrimination;
- Constitute sexual harassment;
- Solicit commerce or are advertisements including promotion or endorsement;
- Promote or endorse political issues, groups, individuals, or candidates;
- Conduct or encourage violence or illegal activity;
- Contain information that may compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems;
- Intend to defame any person, group or organization;
- Violate a legal ownership interest of any other party, such as trademark, patent, or copyright infringement;
- Make or publish false, vicious or malicious statements concerning any employee;
- Include violent or threatening content;
- Disclose confidential or proprietary information.



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The public comments expressed on City of Merriam social media accounts do not reflect the opinions or positions of the City of Merriam, its officers, or its employees. If you have any questions or would like to report a comment in violation, please contact us at [cityofmerriam@merriam.org](mailto:cityofmerriam@merriam.org), or call 913-322-5500 and ask to speak with the communications manager.