

# City of Dayton, Minnesota

## Social Media Policy

### **Purpose**

Social networking in government serves two primary functions: to communicate and deliver messages directly to citizens and to encourage citizen involvement, interaction, and feedback. Information which is distributed via social networking must be accurate, consistent, and timely and meet the information needs of the City's intended audience. Social media is used for social networking, and this policy seeks to ensure proper administration of the City of Dayton's social media sites by its representatives.

The City has limited control of social media accounts with third parties (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.). At the same time, there is a general expectation by the public that the City of Dayton have a social media presence to share information about current city projects and city business. For municipal purposes, the City's social media accounts will be used for incidental, non-vital communication and general information only. It is not the purpose of the city's social media accounts to be a medium for transactions of city business. The one exception is in the case of a natural or man-made disaster, if it is determined by the City that the best means of communicating with the public is through the social media account(s).

The City of Dayton wishes to establish a positive and informative social media presence. City representatives have the responsibility to use the City's social media resources in an efficient, effective, ethical, and lawful manner pursuant to all existing City policies.

### **Policy**

The City of Dayton will determine, at its discretion, how its web-based social media resources will be designed, implemented, and managed as part of its overall communication and information sharing strategy.

City of Dayton social media accounts are considered a City asset. The City reserves the right to shut down any of its social media sites or accounts for any reason without notice.

All social media websites created and utilized during the course and scope of an employee's performance of his/her job duties will be identified as belonging to the City of Dayton, including a link to the City's official website. The City of Dayton does not create or maintain social media accounts for its elected officials.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to any existing or proposed social media websites sponsored, established, registered, or authorized by the City of Dayton. The City's social media accounts are exclusively the following:

1. City of Dayton Facebook account at [link].
2. Dayton Activity Center Facebook account at [link].

3. Dayton Fire Department at <https://www.facebook.com/DaytonFireDepartment/>
4. Dayton Police Department at [link].

The City does not create, collect, disseminate, or regulate use of any other social media accounts, including the personal accounts of its elected officials, private community pages and staff. Questions regarding the scope of this policy should be directed to the City Administrator.

## **Definition**

Social media are internet and mobile-based applications, websites, and functions, other than email, for sharing and discussing information, where users can post photos, video, comments, and links to other information to create content on any imaginable topic. This may be referred to as “user-generated content” or “consumer-generated media.”

Social media includes, but is not limited to:

- Social networking sites and apps such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Nextdoor
- Blogs
- Social news sites such as Reddit and BuzzFeed
- Video and photo sharing sites and apps such as YouTube, Instagram, SnapChat, and Flickr
- Wikis, or shared encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia
- An ever-emerging list of new web-based platforms generally regarded as social media or having many of the same functions as those listed above

As used in this policy, “employees and agents” means all City representatives, including its employees and other agents of the city, such as independent contractors or councilmembers.

“Social media manager” means any city employee or agent with administrator access who, when posting or responding to a post, appears to be the City social media account owner.

## **Rules of Use**

Social Media will be used for the following purposes:

1. Keep the general public informed of City meetings, events, closures, project and/or construction updates, and other notices as deemed necessary by city officials in the City of Dayton.
2. Build a sense of community and help eliminate barriers to communication with residents.
3. Create awareness of city activity including but not limited to the Dayton Activity Center rentals and recreation programs, events and farmers market.

Designated city social media managers are responsible for managing City social media accounts or websites. When using social media sites, as a representative of the city, designated social media managers will follow these rules:

Facilities or departments wishing to have a new social media presence must initially submit a request to City Administrator in order to ensure social media accounts are kept to a sustainable number and policies are followed. All approved sites will be clearly marked as the City of Dayton site and will be linked with the official City website ([www.cityofdaytonmn.com](http://www.cityofdaytonmn.com)). No one

may establish social media accounts or websites on behalf of the City unless authorized in accordance with this policy.

The City's social media page must conspicuously display or link to a public notice that informs the public of the purpose of the social media presence and the terms one agrees to in accessing, using, or posting to the City's social media page.

All social media websites are to be consistently branded in order to communicate a clear association with the city. Branding will include the city logo and similar colors and images from the City of Dayton website. An exception to this will apply to the City Fire and Police Department pages that will be branded with the official department patch or logo.

Social media managers shall develop an annual social media content calendar. Administration of all City social media websites will comply with applicable laws, regulations, and policies as well as proper business etiquette.

City social media accounts covered by this policy will not be used by social media managers for private or personal purposes or for the purpose of expressing private or personal views on personal, political, or policy issues or to express personal views or concerns pertaining to City employment relations matters.

No City social media account may be used by the City or any social media manager to disclose private or confidential information. No social media website should be used to disclose sensitive information; if there is any question as to whether information is private, confidential, or sensitive, contact the City Administrator.

Outside of situations of disaster, no City social media account will be used for transactions of city business. In the event a user initiates a request, application, or question through social media that affects city business or requires another city policy or process to be followed, follow up with that user by phone, email, or other channels. If comments are allowed, in the event of a question of general interest, a response *may* be given in comments, the initial post may be edited, or a subsequent post may be created to include the information.

City of Dayton's social media managers will not edit any posted comments. However, comments posted by members of the public may be removed if they fall into at least one of the following categories:

- Obscene or pornographic content
- Direct threats to persons or property
- Material asserted to violate the intellectual property of another person
- Private, personal information about a person published without his/her consent
- Information that compromises a public safety security system
- Statutorily private, confidential, or nonpublic data
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Hyperlinks to material that falls into one of the foregoing categories

A member of the public whose comment is removed may appeal the removal of the comment and seek reconsideration of its removal by contacting the City in writing and explaining how the comment does not fall into one of the categories for removal. A written response should be provided as soon as reasonably possible.

A member of the public who disputes the legality of any portion of this policy may dispute the particular portion in writing. The City should acknowledge the claim promptly and, upon consultation with the city attorney, respond to the claim concerning legality of the policy portion as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances.

### **Data Ownership and Retention**

All communications or messages within social media accounts covered by this policy composed, sent, or received on city or personal equipment are the property of the City and will be subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. This law classifies certain information as available to the public upon request. As no transactions of city business shall be conducted through social media accounts (outside of disasters), in accordance with the City's records retention schedule, the City shall retain all social media messages only until read.

## DISCLAIMER

The following disclaimer will be posted where appropriate on each City Social media site or provide a link to the city website with the below disclaimer:

The purpose of the City of Dayton's social media presence is to provide members of the community with information in more places and more ways than were traditionally available. All content of this site is public and is subject to disclosure pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Please be aware that anything you post may survive deletion, whether by you or others. Do not post sensitive or personally identifiable information, such as social security numbers.

Following or "friending" persons or organizations is not an endorsement by the City and is only intended as a means of broadening communication. External comments and posts to City of Dayton's social media sites do not reflect the opinions and policies of Dayton, its officials, or employees. The City of Dayton is not responsible for the content of any external comment or post and expressly disclaims any liability for external comments and posts.

The City of Dayton welcomes citizens participation on its social media sites. All comments and posts should relate to the original topic being discussed or to Dayton's government operations and community events. All comments and posts must follow general rules of respectful discourse. Commenters are solely responsible for the content of their comments and posts, which are in the public domain and may be archived and disclosed by the City of Dayton. The City will post items and monitor discourse on its social media sites during regular business hours. Please be advised that comments falling into the following category or categories may be removed:

- Obscene or pornographic content
- Vulgar, offensive, harassing language
- Direct threats to persons or property
- Material asserted to violate the intellectual property of another person
- Private, personal information about a person published without his/her consent
- Information that endangers the public by compromising a public safety security system
- Statutorily private, confidential, or nonpublic data
- Commercial promotions or spam
- Hyperlinks to material that falls into at least one of the foregoing categories

Should your comment be removed by the City and you believe it does not fall into one of the above categories, contact the City Administrator in writing to explain how the comment does not fall into one of these categories.

Should you wish to challenge the legality of any portion of this notice or the City's social media policy, you may contact the City Administrator in writing and explain the basis for the challenge in detail.

Please note: Comments expressed on the City of Dayton's social networking sites do not reflect the opinions or positions of the City of Dayton, its employees or its elected officials.

If you have any other questions about the City of Dayton's social media page, contact Tina Goodroad at [tgoodroad@cityofdaytonmn.com](mailto:tgoodroad@cityofdaytonmn.com).

By accessing, using, or posting to this City of Dayton social media page, you acknowledge you have been advised of the foregoing.