

## ANCtalk Rules

ANC leads and promotes a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Austin neighborhoods in the following ways:

By working together in harmony;

By sharing vital information with citizens;

By honoring diversity;

By seeking support from and cooperation with other groups, as well as elected officials;

By advocating neighborhood-friendly public policies and the neighborhood right of self-determination;

By speaking out and speaking up;

By endorsing candidates who support our mission;

And by striving to build and sustain inclusive, safe, affordable, and livable neighborhoods and communities throughout Austin—now and for many generations to come.

ANCtalk's purpose is to provide a space for member neighborhoods to promote and share our vision statement in a polite and respectful manner.

Users of ANCtalk are required to follow these rules:

- Messages posted to the ANC lists shall be pertinent to the ANC mission and purpose (as outlined in the ANC bylaws). Stay on topic. Messages must relate directly to the Austin metropolitan area.

Any individual in good standing with their member neighborhood association is permitted to have an account on ANCtalk. Individuals must also live within Austin city limits, or the ETJ, to be on ANCtalk. Individuals may not have more than one account on ANCtalk, and must not falsify information to be on ANCtalk. If there is a question whether the individual is in good standing with their neighborhood association, ANC will defer to the board of the neighborhood association.

Exceptions:

Any individual associated with a neighborhood association that has not paid ANC dues by the conclusion of first ANC general meeting of the year (fourth Wednesday of January) will have their account automatically removed from the list, unless they are a member of an ANC committee or ANC executive board, in which case the removal of their account will be at the discretion of the ANC executive board.

A non-member neighborhood association that is being annexed by the City of Austin can request to be given access to ANCtalk for the remainder of the calendar year, but must pay dues by the first ANC general meeting of the next calendar year in order to continue to have access to ANCtalk.

The ANC executive board reserves the right to restrict the number of individual accounts for each member neighborhood associations on ANCtalk, to ensure small neighborhoods have the same voice as larger neighborhoods.

- All email should be signed by the sending individual. Signature should include all three of the following items:

-First and last name of the individual

-Neighborhood in which they reside (which is not to necessarily construe an endorsement by the neighborhood) and any organizational affiliations relevant to the topic.

-the words 'Council District' and district number. If the individual does not live within Austin city limits, they should use 'ETJ' and their county and precinct.

- Individuals who reside in neighborhoods that are non-members of ANC are considered guests on ANCTalk. Guests may only post one topic per day, and may not reply to more than two posts.
- Use appropriate subject lines. If your reply changes the subject, edit the subject line appropriately. This makes it easier for list users to delete messages or threads in which they have little to no interest.
- Use of profanity is prohibited.
- Personal attacks and insults are not allowed. This includes personal attacks and insults directed towards public employees and elected officials.
- SPAM and selling things on the list is not allowed. This includes the "looking for a roommate/housemate/soulmate" type emails.
- Petitions, solicitations for petitions, and links to petitions may only be posted by individuals who reside in neighborhoods that are members in good standing. Guests and individuals who are on moderation may reply, but are not allowed to post these items.
- Posts that are political in nature, such as posts on council candidates or bond issues, may be posted if germane to ANC, as a whole. Examples of inappropriate posts would be posts that denigrate candidates, discuss specific campaigns with one city council district, or show disrespect for currently elected officials. Guests and individuals who are on moderation may reply, but are not allowed to post these items.
- Replies to discussion topics, especially hot and divisive topics, are limited to once per day per individual. Combine multiple replies together as a single reply. Most topics don't need an immediate reply. This action helps prevent flame wars.
- Email which involves events not directly related to the mission of ANC shall be kept to a minimum. If an ANC subscriber (or the organization to which the subscriber belongs) stands to make money from the event, the sender should note that in the email.
- Forwarding to the list email that is not clearly intended for wide circulation to publicize a civic event is allowed only on the condition that it is pertinent to current ANC discussions and permitted by the author.
- Quoting personal email on list without the express written consent of the writer is strictly forbidden. Personal email is defined as email written to a person's address specifically and not copied to the ANC list. This does not include email written to the list which may single out a particular ANC subscriber (see below for more on emails to the list written for a single person).
- Messages may not be sent to the entire list addressing one person; they should instead be sent directly to that person off-list. Edit the TO: and CC: fields appropriately.
- Out-of-Office replies should be configured to only be sent to the sender (set to reply) and not to the list (set to reply-to-all). These messages only clutter the list.
- All email should be signed by name by the sending individual and include the neighborhood in which they reside (which is not to necessarily construe an endorsement by the neighborhood) and any organizational affiliations relevant to the topic.

## Consequences

Violation of the above rules may lead to the following consequences:

## Warnings

- Consistent infraction of any of the rules above will result in a warning from the moderators or members of the Executive Committee; infractions committed after a warning will result in a moderator putting the subscriber on moderation or if the infractions are severe contacting the Executive Committee to request removal of the subscriber from the list.
- Guests will only be permitted two warnings, and will then be placed on moderation. Guests who are on moderation cannot contest their restriction until their neighborhoods are members in good standing.

#### Infractions Resulting in Moderation

These actions will result in a moderator placing a subscriber on moderation:

- Personal attacks or insults.
- Attempts to sell items to the subscribers
- Sending anonymous email.
- Forwarding anonymous email.
- Sending copies of another's personal email without the writer's written consent.
- Repeated infraction of ANCTalk netiquette above after warnings were sent to the subscriber.

The moderator must notify the subscriber of the action and give them a chance to contest the moderation restriction at the next Executive Committee meeting. Any moderation restriction of subscribers can be appealed to the Executive Committee by the restricted subscriber; the Executive Committee can request the moderator to remove moderation restrictions on the subscriber with a majority vote.

Subscribers may contact Executive Committee members or the moderators with grievances about list infractions. Executive Committee members may then contact the moderators regarding moderation restrictions. The moderators may then place the subscriber on moderation restrictions.

#### Legal Disclaimers

The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) mailing lists, while associated with the Austin Neighborhoods Council, are made up of ANC subscribers and other interested parties. Therefore, the views expressed on the ANC lists are assumed to be the views of the writer alone, not those of the ANC, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Subscribers to the ANC lists must state their positions (i.e., "President," "ANC Moderator," "Sector Rep", etc.) in their emails if they expect the weight of the position to be behind their views. Subscribers to the list agree to hold ANC harmless for any claims that litigious parties may have against emails sent to the list or the senders of the email.

#### Moderators

The moderator(s) (the moniker applied to maintainers of e-mail groups) is one or more person(s) appointed by the Executive Committee to manage the list. The term is unexpired. Persons who have complaints or problems with a moderator may take them up (preferably privately) with the moderator(s) or with the Executive Committee. Candidates for moderator may petition the Executive Committee for the position. The Executive Committee may add, remove or replace a moderator by a simple majority vote at any Executive Committee meeting. A removed moderator reserves the right to appeal any such decision to the Executive Committee and subsequently to the ANC membership.

## Amendments

The rules herein may be amended or changed by the Executive Committee by a majority vote without notice. Amendments to this document must be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Reviewed, revised and adopted by the ANC Executive Committee, February, 2015.