

# Decorum & related topics

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# Decorum

- City council meetings fairly formal
- I wear nice clothes (can't stand suit jackets)
- Decorum helps smooth out life
- Promotes communication
- Mutual respect extremely beneficial

# Focus on issues

- Avoid outlandish statements
- Evidence is most helpful
- One topic at a time
- People can only process so much

# Understanding people

- Can be tremendously difficult
- Makes communication difficult
- Most of us hardly understand ourselves
- Hidden motives
- Protecting sense of self of utmost import
- Most people hate to be challenged
- Expect anger, pride

# Uncomfortable truths

- Usually denied, avoided – personally and culturally
- Messengers often attacked
- Most people want to *not* know
- And that's why we get crises

# Addressing the uncomfortable

- Requires patience
- Diplomacy
- Tact
- Persistence
- Advanced human understanding
- These skills are very hard to develop
- The preceding all came together ...

# At the last meeting

- A speaker (Tim Reisen sp?) was short on tact
- Did not curse at any of us
- Described an event with too much honesty
- Could have been corrected, not ejected
- Maybe next time ...

# Tim's issue

- Physically and verbally mistreated by police
- Complaint was ignored
- We've heard this before
- Looks like a pattern



# Outreach to Tim Reisen

- I want to help you present your issue
- Does anyone out there know Tim?
- Outreach to citizens at large (meet me here)
- Let me know if you need help presenting
- We'll work on it together

Good night Sioux Falls :-)

