

**SPOKANE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Board of Fire Commissioners
Policy for Public Comment #027**

Purpose:

The Spokane Valley Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes the value of public comment on fire department related issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings.

Authority:

Revised Code of Washington Title 52 Fire Protection Districts
RCW 52.14 (RCW 52.14.010)

Policy:

In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Spokane Valley Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners will provide a period at the beginning, and end, of each regular meeting during which visitors may present to the board.

Procedures for Public Comment:

A. Presentations to the Board of Fire Commissioners for public comment will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes each. If possible, such presentations should be scheduled in advance.

1. The board will allow individuals to express an opinion prior to board action on agenda items that the board determines require, or will benefit from, public comment. Written and oral comment will be accepted by the board before the adoption or amendment of policies not expressly, or by implication, authorized by state or federal law, but which will promote the effective, efficient or safe management and operation of the district. Individuals wishing to be heard by the board will first be recognized the board chair.
2. Public comment allows the board and Fire Chief to hear issues that interest our community, but does not allow an opportunity for dialogue between the speaker, board, or Fire Chief.
3. The board will not hear public comment that involves a complaint about an individual department employee, a personnel action, or pending litigation.
4. Individuals wishing to be heard by the board will first be recognized by the Chair of the Spokane Valley Fire Board of Fire Commissioners.

5. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments within the time limits established by the board.
6. Any representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the board will also be entitled to express an opinion.
7. The board chair may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it exceeds the maximum time of three (3) minutes, is personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
8. The board as a whole has the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings.

Adopted:
Spokane Valley Board of Fire Commissioners:
April 24, 2017

Reviewed:
Spokane Valley Board of Fire Commissioners
February 8, 2021