

**RESOLUTION #106-03**  
**RESOLUTION BY DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Subject: Nine Tools of Civility

WHEREAS, the residents of the County of Douglas place a high value on respect and civility in their lives and they understand that these characteristics are essential to any healthy community, and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Supervisors supports opportunities for civil discourse and discussion in the community and in the Government Center, and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Supervisors addresses sometimes controversial issues about which people often feel passionately - which at times leads to uncivil behavior, and

WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect can have a damaging effect on the proceedings, on the quality of debate, and on the practice of democracy itself.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors recognizes nine tools of civility that will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issues that face our county; which are:

1. Pay attention;
2. Listen;
3. Be inclusive;
4. Don't gossip;
5. Show respect;
6. Be agreeable;
7. Apologize;
8. Give constructive criticism; and
9. Take responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors shall promote the use and adherence of these tools, **including the Speak Your Peace Civility Project mission statement**, in conducting the business of the Douglas County Board of Supervisors.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

(Fiscal Note: None)

ACTION: Motion by Martin, second James O'Brien, to adopt. Motion by Browne, second Zukowski, to amend resolution and have it sponsored by entire County Board. Motion carried. Allen stated he understands the rationale for this and has followed it through St. Louis County and the City of Superior, but takes exception with two rules - having his own opinions and being expected to agree all the time. Dan Blank, District Attorney, summarized objectives of the Speak Your Peace program, noting other elected officials/governing bodies in the Twin Ports,

including school districts, have subscribed to the tools. Blank stated his hope is this will be more than symbolic, but that the County Board leads by example, encouraging other organizations, such as townships and villages to adopt the program. James O'Brien suggested "telling the truth" should be the tenth tool of the program. Motion by Pleski, second Quam, to amend the resolution and add the "mission statement" of the program to the resolution. Motion carried. Motion to adopt resolution, as amended, carried.