



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Municipal Services Building
1401 JFK Boulevard, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tel: (215) 686-5206
Fax: (215) 686-5212

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH

Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity
Health Commissioner

August 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO : All PDPH Employees

FROM: Donald F. Schwarz, MD, MPH
Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity, and Health Commissioner

RE: SOCIAL MEDIA USE GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

In May 2012, Mayor Michael Nutter issued a **Social Media Use Policy** to establish general standards and responsibilities for the acceptable use of social media (*policy attached*). The City policy governs the use, administration, management, monitoring, and retention of social media and social media content, consistent with state, federal and City laws and regulations, the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, and City and agency goals. The policy applies to all uses of social media by City employees maintaining, using, or providing oversight of social media tools.

This memorandum serves as an addendum to the City policy and provides guidelines for:

- A. Using PDPH's department-wide Facebook account
- B. Managing existing social media accounts for PDPH divisions/programs/projects
- C. Requesting new social media account for PDPH divisions/programs/projects

Social media refers to Internet technologies that facilitate and promote interactive communication, participation and collaboration. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, the web sites and applications Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Flickr, and YouTube, and the interactive tools and functions they provide to users.

Social media provides the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) with a tremendous opportunity to enhance the speed, reach and targeting of our health communications, at minimal cost. Social media has also been shown to increase the public's engagement and dialogue on critical health issues.

A. USING PDPH'S DEPARTMENT-WIDE FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

The PDPH established its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/phillyhealth, in April 2012. The page is available to all PDPH divisions for postings of announcements, updates, events, and other appropriate content. The page is co-administered and updated by Hans Kellner (hans.kellner@phila.gov), Coordinator of Public Education in the Health Commissioner's Office and James Garrow (james.garrow@phila.gov), Health Communications Specialist in the Division of Disease Control.

Submission Guidelines

- All requested submissions for posting to the PDPH's department-wide social media accounts must first be approved by the division's director or authorized communications/social media designee.
- All requests should be submitted by email to Hans Kellner (hans.kellner@phila.gov) and copied to James Garrow (james.garrow@phila.gov).
- Each division is encouraged to submit up to 20 postings per month. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Submissions should be made at least two business days before their requested posting date. Exceptions will be made for emergency postings on a case-by-case basis.
- Multiple submissions may be made at one time with their corresponding requested posting dates.
- Postings may include links and/or images. Images should be submitted as jpg files.

- Questions should be directed to Hans Kellner (hans.kellner@phila.gov) at 215-686-5203 or James Garrow (james.garrow@phila.gov) at 215-685-6841.

Best Practices

In general, postings should conform to best practices for each type of social media used. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the following best practices:

[Guide to Writing for Social Media](#)

[Facebook Best Practices](#) (pages 3-4)

[Twitter Best Practices](#) (pages 2-3)

[Other Social Media Best Practices](#)

B. MANAGING EXISTING SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

All PDPH divisions/programs/projects that currently administer a social media account must read the attached **City of Philadelphia Social Media Use Policy** and become familiar with its requirements and restrictions. Failure to comply with the policy may result in termination of the social media account(s).

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[Other Social Media Best Practices](#)

C. REQUESTING NEW SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

All divisions are encouraged to utilize the PDPH's department-wide social media accounts to disseminate information to the public. Some divisions may also wish to establish a separate social media account(s) specific to their program area.

All PDPH divisions preparing to submit a proposal for a new social media account(s) must read the attached **City of Philadelphia Social Media Use Policy** and become familiar with its requirements and restrictions. Failure to comply with the policy may result in rejection or termination of the social media account(s).

Submission Guidelines

- Submit a one-page proposal to Hans Kellner, Coordinator of Public Education (hans.kellner@phila.gov). The proposal must be approved by the division's director or authorized social media designee in advance of submission.
- The proposal should include:
 - The name of the proposed social media network account(s)
 - The rationale for the division/program/project-specific social media network account (e.g., why Twitter instead of Facebook, etc.)
 - The reason why the PDPH Facebook page is not appropriate or sufficient for the dissemination of the proposed content
 - Example content to be shared with the public
 - The anticipated frequency of use (posts, tweets, etc.)
 - A description of the approval process for content approval within the division/program/project
 - The name, title, contact information and qualifications of primary and backup administrators for the proposed account(s)
- Proposals will be reviewed by HCO staff and a decision will be made within two weeks of receiving the proposal. The final decision will be made by the Health Commissioner.
- If the proposal is accepted by the HCO, it will be submitted for approval to the Mayor's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) or designee and the Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee.

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Questions about this policy may be directed to Hans Kellner, Coordinator of Public Education in the Health Commissioner's Office, at (215) 686-5203 or hans.kellner@phila.gov.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY

1 PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

The purpose of this policy is to establish City of Philadelphia (City) general standards and responsibilities for the acceptable use of social media. The policy governs the use, administration, management, monitoring, and retention of social media and social media content, consistent with state, federal and City laws and regulations, the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, and City and agency goals.

This policy applies to all uses of social media by City employees maintaining, using, or providing oversight of social media tools. Employees include, but are not limited to, full-time and part-time employees, contractors, interns, and volunteers who access or contribute content. This policy also applies to members of the public who comment or otherwise interact with the City through its social media websites.

All content created, received, transmitted, stored on, or deleted from City information systems is exclusively the property of the City or, to the extent provided by applicable law, of the person or entity that created or owns the copyright or trademark rights to that content.

2 BENEFITS OF SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS

When used in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies as well as prudent operational, security, and privacy considerations, Web-based social media tools can (at little to no cost):

- Enhance the speed, reach, and targeting of communications (particularly during disaster/emergency incidents);
- Facilitate collaboration;
- Improve information exchange between residents and employees;
- Increase citizen engagement and dialogue;
- Streamline processes;
- Foster productivity improvements; and
- Increase the City's ability to broadcast messages to the widest possible audience (City, region, nation, world).

3 DEFINITIONS

“Social media” means and includes Internet technologies that facilitate and promote interactive communication, participation, and collaboration. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, the web sites and applications Blogger, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Tumblr, Foursquare, Meetup.com, Flickr, YouTube, Yelp, Second Life, and Wikipedia, and the interactive tools and functions they provide to users.

“Authorized social media user” or “authorized user” means and includes any City employee, contractor, consultant, vendor, and any other City employee responsible for the use, administration, management, monitoring, and/or retention of social media, social media tools or web sites, and/or social media content, in the name of or on behalf of the City or any City agency.

“**Social media content**” means and includes any materials, documents, photographs, graphics, and other information that is created, posted, distributed, or transmitted using social media Internet sites or social media tools.

4 STANDARDS FOR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

All uses of social media on behalf of the City or any City agency, or in any manner that appears to represent the City or constitute communication by the City, must comply with the following standards.

- a) Agencies and agency heads
 - i) No agency may establish or use or terminate a social media identity, account, profile, page, or site (collectively, social media account(s) or account(s)) without the approval of the Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) or designee and the Mayor’s Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee.
 - ii) Agency heads, with the approval of the CIO or designee and the Mayor’s Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee, shall designate one or more agency employees to be the authorized social media user(s) for the agency. Only the agency’s authorized social media user(s) shall be authorized to post social media content on the agency’s social media account(s) and may have access to the agency’s social media accounts that permit such posting.
 - iii) Agency heads shall establish a procedure for approving, prior to posting, and shall issue agency guidelines for, all social media content that is posted on the agency’s social media accounts, including the designation of one or more agency managers (who may also be agency authorized social media users) to be responsible for the approvals. All Agency social media guidelines and policies must be consistent with this policy, and must be approved by the CIO or designee and the Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee.
 - iv) No information or link (hyperlink) to any Internet site or other materials or communications may be posted, or approved for posting, on an agency social media account that is not directly related (as determined by the agency head) to the mission, services, and business objectives of the agency.
 - v) Agency social media pages must clearly identify the pages as created and managed by the agency, identified as a department, office, commission, or agency of the City of Philadelphia.
 - vi) Agency social media sites must prominently display, on the first page accessible to site visitors, links to the City’s official Internet site www.phila.gov, and to the agency’s official Internet pages on Phila.Gov or, if applicable, any agency Internet site that is not part of Phila.Gov.
- b) Employees
 - i) No City employee may establish any social media account in the name of or on behalf of the City or any City agency unless: (1) the Chief Innovation Officer or designee, the Mayor’s Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee, and the user’s agency head have all approved the account; and (2) all information to be posted on the account is approved in accordance with Subsection a) above. This requirement applies regardless of whether the account is established, accessed, or used by means of City information systems or by means of the employee’s or others’ information systems, and regardless of whether the account is established, accessed, or used from City or non-City premises.

- ii) Social media accounts established by the City or a City agency are to be used for City and agency business purposes only. Use for communications and postings that are not directly related to a City or agency business purpose is prohibited.
- iii) Employees must report unauthorized uses of City social media or City social media accounts to the head of their agency, the CIO or designee, and the Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee.
- iv) Employees are expected to be attentive and careful in their use of social media. Employees should be aware that their use of social media may be perceived as representing the City and City government, and should tailor their use accordingly.
- v) Unacceptable uses. The City considers the activities and uses of social media listed below to be unacceptable. Employees are prohibited from engaging in any of them on a social media account established by the City or a City agency.

- i. Using social media in a manner that does not comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with City and agency policies.
- ii. Using social media in a manner that:
 - 1. Violates the copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property rights of any person or entity, or otherwise violates their legal ownership interests;
 - 2. Includes ethnic slurs, profanity, personal insults; material that is harassing, defamatory, fraudulent or discriminatory; or other content or communications that would not be acceptable in a City workplace under City or agency policy or practice;
 - 3. Violates the terms of contracts governing the use of any social media content, including but not limited to, software and other intellectual property licenses;
 - 4. Displays sexually explicit images, cartoons, jokes, messages, or other material in violation of the City Policy Preventing Sexual Harassment in City Government;
 - 5. Violates Section 10-107 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, relating to "Political Activities";
 - 6. Contains confidential or "for official use only" information or information that compromises the security of City networks or information systems. Such for official use only or confidential information includes, but is not limited to, information that is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) or other federal, state, or local laws and regulations (except as permitted under such laws and regulations), as well as social security numbers and other personally identifiable information;
 - 7. Violates the terms of use governing the social media account.

This list is not exhaustive. Questions about particular uses of social media or particular social media content should be directed to the agency head and the Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or the Chief Innovation Officer.

- vi) Personal social media accounts. This policy is not intended to govern employees' establishment or use of personal social media accounts for personal purposes, outside the workplace and using non-City information systems. However, some such personal uses of

social media may reflect on the City or appear to represent City policy or to be on behalf of the City. In addition, accessing and using personal social media accounts by means of City information systems is subject to City policy. For these reasons, City employees are expected to comply with all City and agency policies, as well as the following standards, when using personal social media accounts.

- i. City employees have no right to privacy with respect to their personal use of social media or personal social media accounts accessed by means of City information systems, or with respect to personal social media content so accessed. They should not expect or assume privacy or confidentiality with respect to any such personal social media use or social media content.
 - ii. Postings and user profiles on personal social media accounts must not state or imply that the views, conclusions, statements or other social media content are an official policy, statement, position, or communication of the City of Philadelphia, or represent the views of the City or any City officer or employee, unless the head of the user's agency, the CIO or designee, and the Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee have granted express permission for that user to do so.
 - iii. If a City employee has not received such express permission, any user profile, biography, or posting on a personal social media account that identifies that person as a City employee must include a qualifying statement in substantially the following form: "The views I express on this site are my own and do not reflect any official view or position of the City of Philadelphia."
 - iv. Employees subject to the City's political activity restrictions, under City policy and pursuant to Section 10-107 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, must comply with those restrictions in personal uses of social media, whether or not City information systems are used to access the personal social media account.
- c) Interactive Communications; Notices to Site Visitors
- i) A City or agency social media site or page may be a "limited public forum" under the First Amendment if visitors to the site are able to post comments or other communications. Where permitted by the operator of the site, the comments and similar functions should be disabled on City and agency social media pages, unless the agency head, CIO or designee, and Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee determine that permitting or encouraging interactive communications with site users is necessary to carry out the business objectives of the agency in creating the site.
 - ii) If interactive communications (e.g. comments) are permitted, terms of use for visitors to the site must be posted prominently on the site, unless prohibited by the terms of use governing the social media account or prevented by the site. The terms must include:
 - i. A clear description of the topics that the site is intended to address and that may be addressed in comments, with a statement that user postings will be removed if they are not directly related to those topics;
 - ii. Statements substantially similar to the following:
 1. Communications posted by visitors on this site may not contain ethnic slurs or profanity; material that is harassing, defamatory, fraudulent, discriminatory or sexually explicit; or any material that infringes copyright, trademark or other intellectual property rights. Any such communications may be removed at any time without notice.

2. This site is not owned, controlled, or operated by the City or the agency. Visitors to the site must comply with the terms of use and privacy policies of the site operator, and are subject to the site operator's practices regarding the collection and retention of passive information (e.g. cookies) and other information from and about visitors.
 3. Any advertisements appearing on the site are not controlled by the City or the agency and do not reflect endorsement by the City or agency.
 4. Opinions expressed by visitors to the site do not reflect an endorsement or opinion on the part of the City or agency.
 5. All postings by visitors to the site may be retained by the City, in its discretion and as required by applicable law or City policy.
 6. All postings may be subject to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act, the open records provisions in Section 5-1100 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and Mayor's Executive Order No. 6-92, and other public records and disclosure laws, as well as discovery in litigation. This includes, but is not limited to, information made available through a user's privacy settings on their own social media and other Internet pages.
 7. Visitors to the site should have no expectation of privacy or confidentiality with respect to any content they post to the site, and the City and agency have no responsibility for maintaining any such privacy or confidentiality.
- iii) The content of communications posted by site users may not be edited or otherwise modified; removal is the only action that may be taken, and then only for communications that violate the terms of the statements under subsections i. and ii. above.

4.1 Information Requirements

Agency heads must submit a list of all social media accounts maintained by the agency to the Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships or designee and the CIO or designee, including, at a minimum, the following information: (1) the name, hosting site and Internet address and date of inception for the account, and a statement of the purpose and scope of the agency's use of the account; (2) all user names, passwords, and other log-in credentials for the account; (3) all authorized social media users for the agency that have access to and/or responsibility for the account; and (4) the administrative contacts and contact information for the account. The agency head must promptly notify the Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships and the CIO any changes in any of the foregoing, and of any new agency social media accounts or pages and any termination of accounts or pages.

Agency heads shall ensure that all agency-approved social media accounts and social media content are periodically reviewed for compliance with this policy. Agency heads are responsible for all social media content created, received, transmitted, stored, deleted, destroyed, and/or printed in the name of or on behalf of the City or the agency.

4.2 Records Retention

Social media content is subject to the Records Retention and Destruction Schedule established by the Department of Records for the agency, whether or not the social media is currently posted on the agency's site(s). Agencies are responsible for making and retaining such postings, as required by the agency's Records Retention and Destruction Schedule.

5 COMPLIANCE

Each City agency head shall be responsible for enforcing compliance with this policy by agency employees.

Employees who violate this policy, or any other City or agency policy, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, in accordance with the disciplinary policies of the employee's agency and of the City, and, for employees represented by the Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Fire Fighters, District Council 47 or District Council 33, the terms of the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

If a City contractor or third party user knowingly or negligently commits or permits a material violation of this policy, the City may terminate the contract in accordance with its terms, and/or terminate the contractor's or third party user's access to City information processing facilities, information systems, and information, in addition to any legal or remedial actions the City may take to enforce and protect its interests.

6 GETTING MORE INFORMATION

Questions about this policy and other information security matters should be addressed to the Mayor's Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships and the Chief Innovation Officer.