

In this protocol, "VIP" is defined primarily to mean visiting dignitaries.

- 1) This policy assumes that VIPs may still be recognized during their attendance at meetings and functions in the traditional manner.
- 2) VIPs have no expectation of inclusion or recognition unless an event is specifically designed to recognize them or promote a non-profit activity that compliments the city's non-profit use policy.
- 3) Any member of the city council may request recognition of a VIP.
- 4) Any member of the city council may request inclusion of a VIP in an event, provided either the event is a city-initiated event, or the council has included a joint event with the VIP in their annual budget.
- 5) A simple majority of the council may opt to block or rescind a recognition or a VIP invitation, provided that the vote to block takes place in an open meeting. If a VIP is cost-sharing an event, the council may not rescind recognition or an invitation, however, they may choose to try and defund the city's share of the event.
- 6) For municipal events and celebrations such as, but not limited to: the Summer Concert Services, Star-Spangled Fourth, Oktoberfest, Dia de los Muertos, and Christmas on the Square, all elected representatives that represent any part of the physical or political borders of the City of Garland or its utilities shall be given an invitation to attend.
- 7) If a municipal event or celebration sets aside time for elected officials to speak, all officials personally in attendance will be given an amount of time to speak that is appropriate to the event, and speech topics will be limited to introductions and the purpose of the event. People representing an elected official may be recognized but will not be invited to speak unless they are delivering a Public Service Announcement approved in advance.
- 8) The city council must approve the budget for events that are hosted on behalf of VIPs or outside political or policy-making entities.
Example 1: A convention of irrigation installers meets each year, rotating between member cities.
Example 2: The governor wishes to hold a yearly forum on trade dispute arbitration at the Atrium.
Example 3: A senator wishes to hold a rally in the square, requiring the police to close off traffic and manage the crowd.
- 9) The emcee of an event may make the decision to exclude a VIP from recognition if that recognition creates a credible threat to public safety or is likely to cause civil unrest.