

GUIDE TO MEETING WITH YOUR MAYOR

Some tips to keep in mind as you prepare to meet with your mayor or city council member:

BE POLITE

- Smile!
- Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening are all great openers.

BE GRACIOUS

- Thank the official for their time.
- Thank the official for the work they do in the community.
- Use a concrete example of something you are grateful for. For example, "I live in the Forest Creek neighborhood and am enjoying our refurbished playground. Thank you for your role in making that happen."

BE PRESENT

- Introduce yourself, briefly. Say where you live and share a little bit about your family. For example, you can say if you have children, how many, how long you have lived in the city, and what is your profession.
- Turn your cell phone off or to silent.
- Do not look at your phone during the meeting.
- It's good to take notes but try to be engaged and listening during active conversation.

BE PREPARED

- It's important to learn about the official you are meeting with in advance. Google your member. Learn a fun fact and look for common interests.
- Some mayors have already signaled their climate leadership by supporting the Paris Climate agreement, creating climate adaptation plans, or some other initiative. Research this in advance. If this is the case in your city, offer your gratitude for their leadership and adjust the following questions accordingly to ask what Moms can do to make their plans more successful.
 - Here is the current list of Climate Mayors: <http://climatemayors.org/>
 - Find out about climate change adaptation plans in your community here: <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/plans.html>
- Create a short outline with notes for your meeting. Practice in advance what you want to say.
- Bring paper and a pen, so you can take notes on how the official responds.

FOLLOW UP

- After your meeting, be sure to follow up with a thank you note, phone call, and/or email outlining next steps as discussed in the meeting.

SAMPLE INTRODUCTION SCRIPT

I'm a member of Moms Clean Air Force, a community of over one million moms and dads across the country who advocate for clean air and solutions to climate change. I'm here today because I am concerned with ensuring our air is clean and that the city is doing all it can to make our community resilient to climate change. I was hoping you could talk to me about what steps the city is taking in these areas and how I can help you push these efforts forward.

Possible questions for your mayor or council member:

- Do your constituents talk to you about climate change, resiliency, or pollution impacts on health?
- Does our city have a climate action or resiliency plan? Request a copy.
 - If yes, ask details about the plan—is it in the development or implementation stage? Request a copy.
 - If no, ask what is the biggest challenge the community currently faces to establish a climate or resiliency plan.
- What steps have you taken to reduce air pollution and address climate change?
- Does our city have an extreme weather preparedness plan? Request a copy.
- What kind of action or involvement by Moms Clean Air Force would be most helpful to you in furthering your clean air and climate agenda.
- What are the boards or commissions in our city that address environmental or health issues, such as clean air, sustainability or climate change? What is the process for being appointed to one of these boards or commissions?
- Will you join your colleagues in signing onto the climate mayors letter? www.climatemayors.org
- Share the handout: “*What Cities Can Do About Air Pollution and Climate Change.*”
- Ask any other questions you wish to ask.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR VISIT WITH YOUR MAYOR

Please email us at momsandmayors@momscleanairforce.org and share your story!