



## **General Guiding principles:**

- The Commission serves constituents of all faiths, expresses no faith preference, and recognizes no faith as superior or inferior to others.
- Invocation will be placed as agenda item #3, after item 2 Roll Call, once per month at a designated, regularly scheduled public meeting of the Board of County Commissioners ("Commission"). The invocation is offered for the benefit of the Commission and is meant to add solemnity to the meetings and ask for wisdom and guidance as the Commission engages in policy and decision making for issues that affect Washoe County residents.
- The designated Commission meeting may not have a person scheduled to give an invocation. In such cases, the Chair, upon discretion, may ask for a moment of silence.
- The Chair of the Commission will introduce a person by name and title prior to an invocation.
- No member of the Commission, public or government at the Commission meeting shall be required or expected to participate in an invocation and persons providing the invocation, through these guidelines are advised to not request that those present for the meeting be asked to stand for the invocation.
- No County employee or elected County official shall screen, inquire about, or prescribe content of invocations to be given.

## **Invocation Guidance for participants:**

- Invocations or statements shall be given by one person and should not exceed two minutes.
- All invocations or other statements shall be positive and uplifting and are not an opportunity to disparage other people, organizations, or beliefs.
- Invocations shall not be used to proselytize or disparage any faith or belief.
- The faith of the person delivering an invocation shall not preclude an individual's ability to give an invocation.
- A group or individual having no religious affiliation may request the opportunity to offer a moment of silence or a brief statement in alignment with Washoe County's invocation guidance.
- No invocation shall be used to lobby or request funding or support.

## **Invocation Procedures for participants:**

- Individuals interested in providing a voluntary invocation may sign up through the County's "Request to provide an Invocation" form located on our website at: [www.washoecounty.gov/invocation\\_request.php](http://www.washoecounty.gov/invocation_request.php).
- Requests and scheduling will be confirmed by the Agenda Coordinator in the Office of the County Manager.
- Invocations shall be scheduled on a "first come, first served" basis, except as noted below for repeat participants.
- To allow opportunity for persons of different beliefs to participate, preference shall be given to persons who have not yet given an invocation over persons who have already done so.