

RESOLUTION NO. 23-117

A resolution allowing an invocation at the opening of public meetings of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners.

WHEREAS, legislative prayer, such as an opening invocation at a Commission meeting, has long been understood as compatible with the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, public meetings often open with a brief invocation where it is meant to lend gravity to the occasion and reflect values long part of the heritage of the United States; and

WHEREAS, an invocation that invites policymakers to reflect upon shared ideals and common ends before they embark on the fractious business of governing serves that legitimate function and is, therefore, constitutional; and

WHEREAS, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners fully supports and upholds the First Amendment to the United States Constitution which guarantees freedom of religious expression;

WHEREAS, this resolution intends to open public meetings of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners with an invocation for the benefit of the Commission that is fully open to and reflective of the rich diversity of faith present within our County and that the opening invocation is to seek peace for the County, wisdom for its policymakers, and justice for its people, appealing to universal values embodied not only in religious traditions but also in our founding documents and laws;

WHEREAS, by enacting this resolution the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners does not intend to establish a religion; to advance, disparage or exclude one religion over another; nor to show preference to or persuade any person concerning the beliefs of the volunteer providing the invocation or the content of the invocation; now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County, State of Nevada, as follows:

The County Commission invites persons of all faiths and persuasions to join in presenting an invocation to open its regular public Commission meetings pursuant to the procedures outlined in the attached guidance document which is being adopted and incorporated herein to aid in implementing invocations under this Resolution.

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2023.

Board of County Commissioners

By: _____

Alexis Hill, Chair

Attest:

Clerk of the Board