

RESOLUTION NO. 13-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OAK HARBOR ESTABLISHING A WRITTEN POLICY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF INVOCATIONS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Oak Harbor City Council to set the tone for the City of Oak Harbor for the conduct of its City Council meetings during 2013 and for years to come; and

WHEREAS, invocations can serve the secular purpose of solemnizing public occasions and encouraging the recognition of things that are worthy of appreciation in society; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue the long standing history and tradition of legislative invocation established by the drafters of the Constitution, it is the policy of the City to permit invocations to be presented at the commencement of City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Oak Harbor City Council to recognize and respect spiritual diversity; and

WHEREAS, it is the wish of the Oak Harbor City Council to conform its written invocation policy with the holding in *Rubin v. City of Lancaster*, No. 11-56318 (9th Cir. 2013) and to express the City's commitment to spiritual neutrality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Oak Harbor, Washington as follows:

1. The Oak Harbor City Council will continue to begin the regular City Council meetings with an invocation presented by representatives of the greater Oak Harbor area spiritual community.
2. The City will advertise at least once per year that it is seeking interested members of public from any and all religious denominations or spiritual organizations to present invocations at City Council meetings. In cooperation with such groups, the City Clerk shall establish a list of religious and spiritual organizations located within the greater Oak Harbor area. The list shall be available to the public and additional organizations shall be added at the request of any organization. Notice of the opportunity to give the invocation will be sent to all organizations on the list. In cooperation with such groups, a sign up procedure will be established by the City for scheduling of interested volunteers.
3. The opportunity to offer an invocation is voluntary and the contents of the invocation may be dictated by the beliefs of the individual or organization offering the invocation. As a general guideline only, it is requested that invocations be limited to approximately 90 seconds.

4. The City shall endeavor to provide a copy of this resolution to each volunteer in advance of his or her presentation of the invocation.


PASSED by the City Council of the City of Oak Harbor and approved by its Mayor this 18th day of June, 2013.

CITY OF OAK HARBOR



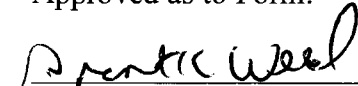
SCOTT DUDLEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Valerie J. Loffler, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Grant Weed, Interim City Attorney