

IN THE MATER OF PROVIDING AN  
INVOCATION AT THE OPENING  
OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

RESOLUTION  
NO. 2013-03-04

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, an invocation is the act or process of petitioning for help or support, usually in the form of a prayer of entreaty to a higher authority; and

WHEREAS, public meetings often open with a brief invocation to a higher authority asking for blessing and wisdom; and

WHEREAS, the problems we face in our country require solutions beyond ourselves, and thus we have a long and rich tradition of asking a higher authority for guidance in solving our challenging issues; and

WHEREAS, beginning with Benjamin Franklin, who called for prayer to open each meeting of the Continental Congress, and proceeding to the present day, such invocations have been a traditional and institutional act of our local, state, and national legislative bodies; and

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

WHEREAS, by this resolution the Board of Clark County Commissioners intends to open public meetings with an invocation that is fully open to and reflective of the rich diversity of faith present in Clark County; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is not a violation of any constitutional principle based upon previous rulings of various courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States of America, because it does not recognize one religious faith as more valid than any other faith or secularism.



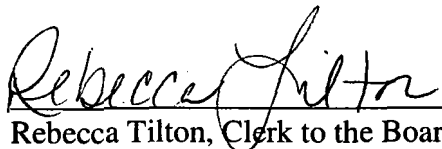
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Clark County Commissioners that it invites clerical and related representatives from all faiths to join with them in presenting an invocation, for up to two minutes, to open its public meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this invocation time shall not be used to lobby or advance a particular religion or disparage any faith or belief, and that the purpose of this practice shall be to seek wisdom and guidance as the Board makes critical decisions affecting the lives of Clark County residents.

ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013, by the Board of Clark County Commissioners.

Attest:

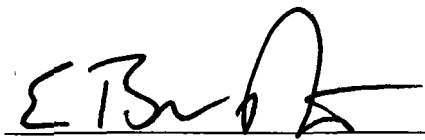
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Rebecca Tilton, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Stuart, Chair

Approved as to Form Only  
ANTHONY GOLIK  
Prosecuting Attorney

  
Tom Mielke, Commissioner

By   
Bronson Potter,  
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

  
David Madore, Commissioner

