

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2009-058

Authorizing adoption of policy to permit public invocations

Whereas, SC Code of Laws, Section 6-1-160 authorizes adoption of a policy to permit public invocations before each meeting of a deliberative public body; and,

Whereas, Columbia City Council desires to adopt a policy to permit public invocations before each meeting of Columbia City Council pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Section 6-1-160; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 19th day of August, 2009 that the Mayor and City Council hereby adopts a policy to permit public invocations before each meeting of Columbia City Council as is authorized by SC Code of Laws, Section 6-1-160, as follows:

(i) An invocation may be offered on a voluntary basis, at the beginning of a meeting of Columbia City Council, by:

a) the Mayor and any City Council member with the Mayor and City Councilmembers having the opportunity for invocation duty which duty shall be regularly and objectively rotated among the Mayor and City Councilmembers; or,

b) a Chaplin appointed by the Mayor and City Council; or,

c) selecting invocation speakers on an objective and rotating basis from among a wide pool of the religious leaders serving established religious congregations in the City of Columbia.

City Council, on an annual basis, shall compile a list of all known, established religious congregations and assemblies in the City of Columbia by reference to local telephone books or similar sources, or both.

City Council, on an annual basis, shall mail an invitation addressed to the 'religious leader' of each congregation and assembly.

The invitation must contain, in addition to scheduling and other general information, the following statement: "A religious leader is free to offer an invocation according to the dictates of his own conscience, but, in order to comply with applicable constitutional law, the City of Columbia requests that the public invocation opportunity not be exploited to proselytize or advance any one, or to disparage any other faith or belief".

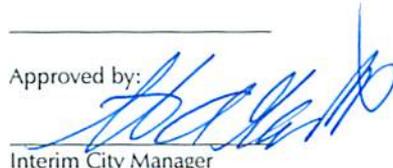
Each respondent who accepts the invitation to deliver an invocation at an upcoming meeting of Columbia City Council shall be scheduled to deliver an invocation on a first-come, first-served basis.

(ii) The opportunity to give a public invocation is not to be exploited to proselytize or advance any one, or to disparage any other faith or belief.

Requested by:


Mayor

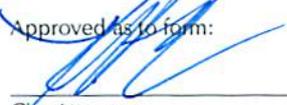
Approved by:


Interim City Manager

ATTEST:


City Clerk

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

Introduced: 8/19/2009

Final Reading: 8/19/2009

ORIGINAL
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