

Lance Hunt

Location:

Submitted At: 1:37am 12-07-16

I am appalled at the blatant abuse of power displayed last meeting by assemblymen Gilman. He used his power for the sole purpose of repressing good hearted people of the Borough. By giving his notice of reconsideration when he expressed that the only reason he did this was to hurt others he opposes. He used a rule to oppress rather than what it was intended for. I ask that Mr. Gilman be removed from his seat as he is not fit to serve on the grounds that he abuses his position on the assembly to further his religious views. I would further assert that he has publicly violated his oath of office. I ask that the assembly president publicly reprimand Mr. Gilman to avoid further abuse of power by others that are not happy with how a vote went.

I support the amended resolution to allow all to participate. Otherwise, shut it down entirely. Blaine has brought shame to the entire assembly with his actions and needs to be held accountable.

Wayne Aderhold

Location:

Submitted At: 6:02am 12-06-16

I am strongly opposed to this Borough wasting any more time and money on this invocation issue. It seems clear that the only reasonable solution is dropping the invocation altogether because a significant number of the proponents of an invocation have made it clear that they will only be happy with an unconstitutional mixing of private religion with public.

As Founding Father James Madison pointed out : either government or religion suffers when they get too close, ... and human liberty suffers in either case.

I find Assemblyman Well's statement at the last meeting particularly troubling. He insinuated that everything was just fine from the 1600's until bible study was taken out of schools. Reality is that in the year 1692 the village of Salem Massachusetts executed fourteen women, five men, and two dogs for witchcraft. What bothered many afterward was not so much the accusations of witchcraft but the "clumsy administration of justice" ... and the belief among many involved that they had executed innocents people (and dogs). All of this injustice was done by "leadership" claiming to be guided by their interpretation of the bible.

The organization in Massachusetts in 1692 and what Mr. Wells seems to advocate is materially no different from the Taliban or ISIS running a civil society.

By the time the Constitution was written and Bill of Rights adopted in 1791, our Founding Fathers had learned that in order to form "a more perfect union" they needed to keep government out of the religion business (and vice-versa), and be no more specific than the concept of "Nature's God" (Declaration of Independence). They had seen the downside of religious warfare and so sought to unify, not divide.

It is past time for this Assembly to unify, not divide. This invocation issue has clearly become divisive as seen from the testimony and the voting to date, and I don't believe that having a constitutionally acceptable invocation process will accomplish anything positive for this Borough. Either drop the invocation altogether or opt for a moment of silence. This is not an issue to be settled by popular vote as some seem to think - it is a constitutional issue of basic rights.

Thank you.

/w.a./

Brian Olson

Location:

Submitted At: 2:17am 12-01-16

I ask the borough assembly to stop wasting time and taxpayer money pursuing any and all attempts at creating a policy on invocations. It is obvious this is a highly contentious issue which only serves to divide our community and will just end up in court making lawyers a bit richer. Do away with the invocation and just start the meeting with a pledge of allegiance.

If anyone needs any special guidance before the meeting starts, perhaps a moment of silence so they can be at peace with whatever belief or non belief one may have.

Sincerely,

Brian Olson
Soldotna, AK