

R2016-072

**Subject:**

FW: support diversity and separation of church and state with moment of silence

-----Original Message-----

From: Maryam Bassir [<mailto:bassirm@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2016 8:56 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)>

Subject: support diversity and separation of church and state with moment of silence

I support utilizing a moment of silence rather than a prayer. I believe in the separation of church and state and also in supporting diversity.

I learned of this issue through Alaska's own Dr. Hays of Kasilof whom is nationally known for her life work in teaching tolerance.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Maryam Bassir, Clinical Psychologist Kenai, AK

R2016-072

**Subject:** FW: First Ammendment to the US Constitution

**From:** Ellen O'Brien [mailto:foth@arctic.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 24, 2016 11:07 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>  
**Cc:** Holmdahl, Brandii <BHolmdahl@kpb.us>  
**Subject:** First Ammendment to the US Constitution

KPB Mayor Navarre and Assembly,

I am amazed that whether there should be an invocation at any time during an Assembly gathering is even a question. The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States clearly states that religion and government should not interfere with one another. That "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Having an invocation risks crossing this line, but specifically choosing Christian or any specific religion over any other, goes way over the line. I am not against people practicing their own religion, but do not want to be forced to participate or even appear to participate in a religion that is not mine. I recommend that the Borough not have an invocation, and I strongly support my Representative's, Brandii Holmdahl's, "no" vote regarding this.

However, if the Assembly insists on violating the First Amendment, they should welcome all forms of spirituality and those who have none. And if the ACLU needs donations to be able to protect our freedoms, then so be it, but I don't want Borough tax money to be spent defending this clearly unconstitutional decision by the KPB Assembly.

Thank you for you attention to this important matter,

Ellen O'Brien