

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Wayne Ogle, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Willy Dunne, Assembly Member *(B) for W.D.*

DATE: March 23, 2017

RE: Resolution 2017-*037* Amending the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Manual Section IX(D) Relating to the Policy for Providing an Invocation (Dunne)

Borough Assembly policy currently restricts the offering of invocations be given only by certain types of chaplains or representatives from approved religious associations.

A number of Borough residents have been denied their requests to give invocations and as a result the Borough has been sued by three individuals who reside in the Borough. The Assembly has allocated \$50,000 of taxpayers' funds to defend the lawsuit and costs could rise well above that.

Recent public testimony and Assembly discussion regarding an ordinance to eliminate invocations revealed that the large majority of residents, both religious and non-religious, would prefer a modification to existing invocation policy. Under this resolution, invocations will continue with guidelines that have been used by other legislative bodies including the Alaska State Legislature.

I would appreciate the Assembly's support of this resolution.