

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

## Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Blaine Gilman, Assembly President  
Brent Johnson, Vice President

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Blaine Gilman, Assembly President  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

**FROM:** Dale Bagley, Assembly Member *DLB*  
Kelly Cooper, Assembly Member *(B) for K.L.*

**DATE:** October 11, 2016

**RE:** Amendment to Resolution 2016-56, Amending the Assembly Manual to Include a Policy Regarding Invocations Before Borough Assembly Meetings

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Following are amendments to clarify that invocations may be offered by persons from charitable groups with an established presence in the borough including groups that do not necessarily meet for religious purposes.

- Amend the following paragraphs in Section 1 by deleting the language in ~~bolded-strikeout~~ and inserting the **bold and underlined** language below.

D. Invocations.

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3. No member or employee of the assembly will direct the public to stand, bow, or in any way participate in the ~~prayers, invocation~~, make public note of a person's presence or absence, attention or inattention during the invocation, or indicate that decisions of the assembly will in any way be influenced by a person's acquiescence in the ~~prayer~~ **invocation** opportunity.

4. The invocation shall be voluntarily delivered by ~~an appointed~~ a representative from the Associations List developed as described below. To ensure that such person (the "invocation speaker") is selected from among a wide pool of representatives the invocation speaker shall be selected according to the following procedure:

- a. The Clerk shall post a notice on the borough internet home page that all ~~religious~~ associations with an established presence in the Kenai Peninsula Borough that regularly meet for the primary purpose of sharing a religious

perspective or other interest or belief that is very important to the attendees, or chaplains who may serve one of more of the fire departments, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, or other similar organizations in the borough, are eligible to provide invocations to the assembly, and that the authorized local leader of any such association or chaplain can submit a written request to provide an invocation to the borough clerk. An additional printed notice containing this information shall be made available to the public during assembly meetings and at the clerk's office.

b. The borough clerk shall compile and maintain a database (the "Associations List") of the qualifying associations and chaplains who have submitted such a written request (hereinafter referred to as an an "religious association").

c. The policy is intended to be and shall be applied in a way that is all-inclusive of every diverse religious such association serving the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The Association List is compiled and used for purposes of logistics, efficiency, and equal opportunity for all of the community's religious leaders associations, who may themselves choose whether to respond to the assembly's invitation and participate. Should a question arise as to the authenticity of an religious association, the assembly president shall make the decision by referring to the criteria used by the Internal Revenue Service in its determination of those organizations that would legitimately qualify for I.R.C. §501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

d. The respondents to the notice shall be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis to deliver the invocation, provided each respondent may only ask to provide one invocation at a time, with subsequent requests only made after the date of their previously scheduled invocation has passed. This is intended to help ensure that a variety of eligible representatives are scheduled for the invocations.

e. In the event an eligible representative of an religious association serving the local community believes that the Clerk or President has not complied with the terms of this policy, the representative has the right to have the matter reviewed by the Assembly.

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