

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 4:06 PM
To: BoroughAssembly
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Name: Lynda Ann Martin Paquette

Email: lyndalamp@lampinalaskallc.com

Subject: Invocation and Brandi's Resignation

Message:

I apologize for submitting comments this way; ecomment was not working for me.

1) Regarding agenda item 2017-011: I am in full support of accepting Brandi's resignation. She has been absent from virtually day one and has left the SE side of the Peninsula in the dark and without representation for far, far too long. It's disappointing it's taken this long for her to step down. Any compensation she received should be requested reimbursed to the Borough. Our lack of representation leads me to a comment regarding the Invocation and lawsuit.

2) Because the SE side of the Borough has been without representation for months, I was completely unaware of the issue over the invocation until I started hearing about the lawsuit on TV News. I am completely shocked and certainly do not support any tax payer money to be spent on something so completely so out of order.

Our Country is founded on a separation of Church and State. I have never understood why there is an invocation at the beginning of a GOVERNMENT meeting. As soon as this became an issue the proper action would have been to cease and desist having an invocation. Just because there a bunch of religious people in the Peninsula does not give them the right to force the rest of us to have religion. That is why there is a division of church and state protected in our Constitution.

So, at this point you need to drop the lawsuit and cease and desist the invocation and this fight and stop wasting money, no matter whose money it is. Or as has been told to you over and over ~ you have to allow anyone to give the invocation. Since you are not willing to honor the other Constitutional protection, freedom of speech, you have to give up the invocation.

You CAN NOT have it both ways. And for all of you who think you can, you need to find a different Country to live in, because this country has protections that you obviously are not in favor of. We're not going to change our Constitution and Bill of Rights and give up what makes America so you can have a biased invocation at a government meeting. That's not this Country. Go find a country where that's how it works.