

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Shassetz, Tatyana  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 9:30 AM  
**To:** Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Blakeley, Norm; Carpenter, Kenn; Fischer, Paul; Cooper, Kelly; Dunne, Willy; Hibbert, Brent  
**Cc:** Blankenship, Johni; Turner, Michele  
**Subject:** FW: invocation

Assembly,

I received an email this morning from Frances Moore.  
Please see the email below.

Respectfully,

Tatyana Shassetz

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

From: FranandBob Moore [mailto:viewmoore@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:43 AM  
To: Shassetz, Tatyana <TShassetz@kpb.us>  
Subject: invocation

Dear Assembly Members:

Please do not pursue a court appeal on the Borough Assembly Invocation. it must be open to all or none to be in accordance with our constitutions, state and federal. If you pursue this you are choosing an egregious waste of our public dollars entrusted to you.

Frances Moore, a KPB citizen for almost fifty years

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** marshall@xyz.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:01 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Motion to appeal Hunt et al v. Kenai Peninsula Borough

Dear Assembly Clerk,

Please forward this message to all Assembly members.

We strongly urge you to vote against the motion to appeal Hunt et al v. Kenai Peninsula Borough! No more tax dollars and time should be spent on this court decision. Please get back to Borough business and focus on schools, roads and hospitals!!

Thank you!

Karen Murdock

Bill Marshall

55200 East End Road

Homer, AK. 99603

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Amy Bollenbach <amybollenbach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 7:19 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

Please send the following email opinion to all borough assembly members:

Please seriously consider the option of **not** appealing the recent court decision on borough invocations. Please respect the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution and "Section 4. Freedom of Religion, Alaska Constitution, "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof."

When we citizens vote for borough assembly members, there are many issues to consider like taxes for the borough government, and how moneys will be appropriated. Why add the issue of whether to have an invocation and/or what kind of invocation to have, which is clearly prohibited by Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution, quoted above.

It seems clear that the court would likely accept a moment of silence as the invocation. I cannot imagine why anyone would object to that because it doesn't establish or prohibit any religious viewpoint. For people who want to pray, they can pray. For people who would like to collect their thoughts on issues facing the assembly, they can do that.

Please stop wasting time and money on something that is prohibited by the US and Alaskan Constitutions. I do not want my government: city, borough, state, or the United States telling me what religious beliefs I will be exposed to. I object to using taxpayer money to appeal the court's recent decision re the Kenai Borough Assembly's invocation. If other people are interested, I will initiate or join an effort to subtract a portion of my property tax that would likely go to an appeal.

Amy Bollenbach, PO Box 3468, Homer, Alaska; location: 2913 Kachemak Road;  
Phone: 907-235-6954.

Assembly Members and Mayor  
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Nov. 19, 2018

Please do not appeal the court ruling that deemed the present Invocation policy to be unconstitutional. Most Borough residents do not want you to continue this litigation any further.

Invocations are constitutional but this policy is unconstitutional since a governmental body can not favor one religion over another, and this policy does that. The restrictions you put on who can give the Invocation, clearly favor some groups over others, and it is clearly not designed to be open to the diversity of beliefs we have in our Borough.

The other reason you should not appeal is because of the huge amount of money which has already been spent. And actually, this is time and money wasted. An appeal will possibly take another couple years to settle and could easily double the cost! The Borough does not have extra money to spend on something that is unconstitutional. Better uses, in the minds of most Borough residents, would be to use the money for schools and roads and other important Borough obligations.

There are three ways to solve the Invocation problem, without any more huge outlays of money that would need to be spent on an appeal that you are no doubt going to lose again.

\*Open the Invocation to any citizen of our Borough who wants to give an Invocation.

\*There could be a Moment of Silence (or possibly be a Moment of Silence for Personal Invocation) instead, at the start of each Assembly Meeting. Each person on the Assembly and in the audience could pray if they wished, or, do a meditative minute, contemplate the coming meeting, or just take a short breath to collect their thoughts. Silence is an important part of many religious traditions, could be used effectively, and this moment of silence would be a good way to accommodate the diverse beliefs of people in our Borough.

\*The Invocation is intended to be for the benefit of the Assembly Members and so you could do away with the public Invocation entirely. (Hardly any governmental bodies have Invocations.) Assembly members could meet briefly ahead of the meetings and take turns doing an Invocation themselves.

Please vote against appealing this court decision. There are better ways to go into the future, solve this problem, and get on with the pressing needs of our Borough government.

Thank you for your time and hard work.

Lynda (Lani) Raymond  
Homer, AK

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Art Koeninger <akoeninger@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 12:31 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Do not appeal the Invocation ruling

Please forward this to all the assembly members and the mayor:

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (With apologies to all the women since King James.)

Please do not appeal the court ruling that your invocation policy is unconstitutional. Further appeals will be a waste of precious funds, especially if you lose, which you probably will.

Even if you prevail, it is only a matter of time before one of these groups you wish to exclude meets the barriers you are attempting to set up; all they need do is have a couple of regular meetings, maybe apply for a 501c3, and voila, you'll be back to square one, having wasted a lot of time, energy, money, and ill will.

No one is threatening your right to practice your religion. No one can make a constitutional argument against the assembly members invoking guidance for your upcoming business, but choosing one group over another is a wrongful use of government will over the governed. Too much blood has been shed on too many hills over religion. Let us not invoke that here.

Please use the leadership that you have been endowed to find an amicable solution.

- 1.) Either pray on your own before the meetings,
- 2.) open the invocation to any borough resident,
- 3.) or establish a brief moment of personal silent invocation, so that everyone can invoke the guidance they desire.

I personally think the latter is a just resolution. It has been said at some of your meetings that a moment of silence is "meaningless." In my opinion, any invocation, whether silent, spoken or sung, is as meaningful as each member makes it. As a practicing Quaker, I find corporate silent worship to be quite meaningful. In fact, we not only open our business meetings with a short moment of silence, but upon occasion will call for a moment of silent reflection during particularly fraught deliberations. Silence is often invoked after a public or personal tragedy. Many spiritual traditions, Christian and otherwise, hallow silence. There is nothing meaningless about it, unless one renders it so.

Thank you for your service and leadership. May your inner wisdom guide you to a just resolution. Do the right thing!

William A. Koeninger  
Homer, AK 99603

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** tammy hopkins <taxito@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 3:04 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

This is a comment to vote no on the appeal. No more money needs spent on this, and should have not had money spent on this. To satisfy those who need a prayer, and to appease all religions, a moment of silence would be the way to go. Thankyou tammy hopkins 9073991853

Sent from my iPad

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Harold Spence <hobig@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 1:57 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

Dear Assembly Members,

I urge you to vote "no" on any measure seeking an appeal of the invocation decision. You would be throwing away more tax dollars we cannot afford in support of a myth. If people wish to pray, they can do so privately.

Sincerely,  
Harold Spence  
Homer, AK  
Box 1748  
99603

Sent from my iPhone

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Ann Hackett <homeraha@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** The Invocation

Dear Borough Assembly Members,

I am writing request that the Borough Assembly NOT appeal the decision of the Alaska Supreme Court regarding the invocation ruling. The law has spoken. One of the basic founding principles of our country, which is also reflected in our state constitution, is that government and religion are to be kept separate. That the borough invocation has been in place for many years, does not alter the fact that it is, and has always been, in violation of our constitution. The promotion of Christianity as a borough religion is not legal, and must be discontinued. We must honor our government principles. If we also wish to honor each person's freedom of religion, the suggestion to recognize a period of silence before each meeting seems like an ethical way to do this.

Please do NOT continue to use our tax dollars to fund this illegitimate cause. As you well know, money is tight in these times, and is only going to get tighter with the state's continuing revenue `shortfall. I want my tax dollars used to fund legitimately community services.

Sincerely,  
Ann Agosti-Hackett  
PO Box 15344  
Fritz Creek

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Elise and Jay Boyer <ejez\_2000@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 12:23 PM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Subject:** Letter for assembly

Good morning:

I would be grateful if you would please distribute this letter to the assembly for consideration before the meeting next week . If you are unable to do so, please let me know so I can take other steps.

Thank you very much. Have a good weekend.

Elise Boyer  
907.235.4284  
935 South Larkspur Circle  
Homer AK. 99603  
Ejez\_2000@yahoo.com

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For all assembly members:

Empathy. Some say it is in short supply these days. We hear stories all the time about people who obviously have a hard time putting themselves in someone else's position, seeing things from another person's perspective. As the world gets smaller and smaller, you would think it would get easier to imagine how other people view life; nevertheless, it seems that we have gotten very good at surrounding ourselves with people who live like us, think like us, act like us. As a result, we can lose track of how our actions affect others.

Here in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, there are those who appear committed to a course of action utterly lacking in empathy, and I feel compelled to speak out on my own behalf and on the part of others who may feel unable to speak.

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly first established the policy that prevents me, as a Jew without a temple on the peninsula, from delivering an invocation at the start of the meetings. Like many other citizens, I tried at the time to explain that this policy would discriminate against minority religions, in violation of our state and US Constitutions. I tried to ask the members to understand how it would feel to be excluded by the policy. Despite valiant efforts by some members of the Assembly, and despite the warnings of the ACLU, the majority used every bit of its power to push the policy through. I was left with the choice to do nothing more about it or to do something. I chose to become a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

This country is great because of a truly marvelous and rare combination of majority rule with protection for minority rights. The whole point of having a constitution is to provide a framework that cannot be easily shaken by the majority. The courts are the place this balance is struck; judges are called on to say when the majority is using its power to deprive the minority of its rights under the constitution. In this case, the judge determined that the Assembly had chosen to misuse its power to discriminate against minority religions.

The majority sought to quiet minority religions in favor of Christian faiths, and did so very well. Did they know that they were sending a clear message that my religion was not valid, not important enough to be represented during the proceedings, as part of the rich fabric of Alaskan life? Did they know that they were acting at the encouragement of those who believe they are entitled to public life that mirrors their life at church? Did they know that their actions would, in turn, encourage people to demean and dismiss voices other than their own?

In fact, the perception of a threat to that entitlement is fueling antisemitism and other bigotry all over the world right now. As I tried to prepare these comments, "Pittsburgh" happened.

Pittsburgh. The message was tragically clear, and is being repeated at alarming rates in the dark corners of the internet: You don't matter. Your God isn't my God. You have no business here (even in your own synagogue). Your voices...your lives, are not worth anything. "Jews will not replace us." Bring down the "puppet masters" and "the Deep State." If these phrases are not familiar to you as antisemitic shorthand, a simple search will show how effective they are in spreading that hateful poison. The Anti-Defamation League reported in February that antisemitic actions were up almost 60% in 2017, the largest increase ever recorded: 2,000 incidents were reported last year.

How is this relevant to the invocation policy? The members of the Assembly majority are devoted public servants who would never take up arms to hurt anyone. No one would ever suggest such a ridiculous thing. Furthermore, I am unaware of any of them saying hateful things about Jews or other minorities.

But they are listening to voices of entitlement who say that Christians are a minority under attack in this country, that their religious freedoms are at risk (despite the fact that almost 75% of Americans identify as Christian). The same sense of entitlement that fuels the the worst antisemitic attacks also motivates the abuse of power in our governing bodies. As a friend noted: within moments of hearing an invocation the majority did not like, they had used their power to silence others. Only majority power works that way. Minorities have to work much harder, and often lose.

Since the court ruled that this policy does indeed violate the constitution of Alaska, a few members have proposed a new policy (under consideration next week) that seeks to be more inclusive. Unfortunately, some members are also considering appealing the ruling and, potentially, refusing to honor it. Members of some area churches are urging them to take that course, to continue doing what one said was "right for the community."

Make no mistake: there is no entitlement to have our government be a Christian government. Instead, we are ALL entitled to a separation of church and state in addition to the freedom to worship as we choose. Our country, and our state, were founded upon these principles after a painful history of seeing what the alternative looks like.

Empathy. We must all ask ourselves, what would it feel like to have my government favor another religion over my own? I already know what it feels like.

Elise Boyer  
November 11, 2018  
Homer, Alaska

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Neil McArthur <cnmcarthur@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 18, 2018 10:26 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** invocation

Please share this email with members of the Borough Assembly:

Honorable Assembly Members:

Please do not appeal the court decision that found our method of selecting those who give invocations to be unconstitutional. I believe the appeal would certainly fail and prove extremely expensive in a time when we have many needs and few funds.

A Moment of Silence, or no invocation at all would be fine alternatives, allowing all present to pray, or not, according to their own wishes.

Neil McArthur, Kachemak City (former mayor)

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay <vivandclyde@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 10:16 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

Dear Assembly members,

We urge you NOT to appeal the Alaska Superior court judge's ruling that the current policy for people to deliver an invocation is unconstitutional.

There are SO many more important issues that need your attention and the Borough's limited money - like education, road maintenance, solid waste and recycling efforts, etc.

Please don't waste our property tax money with an appeal.

I belong to a Rotary Club where we have weekly invocations and various members of the club volunteer to say these invocations. Rotary is an international organization, so we respect all religions and nationalities and we do not permit invocations to reflect only one religion. Therefore, we have excellent creative readings of poetry, prose, famous sayings, personal comments, universal beliefs, moments of silence, or whatever the invocator wants to say or do...but no one's personal religious orientation is spoken.

Please don't waste further time and certainly no more money on this.

Thank you.

Vivian Finlay and Clyde Boyer

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455 Elderberry Drive,  
Homer, AK. 99603 USA  
(907) 435-3903

November 16, 2018

Dear Assembly members,

On October 9, 2018, the Alaska Superior Court ruled against the KPB, finding that the invocation policy adopted by the assembly in Resolution 2016-056 violates the Establishment Clause of Alaska Constitution's which bans the government from establishing an official religion or favoring one religion over belief over another.

The Court further detailed that the KPB's 2016 policy that limited invocations to official, tax-exempt religious associations serving residents of the borough was not inclusive of every religious view, belief, or group.

I urge the Assembly to vote NO on the motion presented by Assembly President Ogle to authorize the borough administration to file an appeal of this judgement. The considerable time and effort by citizens and our Assembly and the thousands of dollars already spent on this impossible effort to legally preserve the Invocation can never be recovered. Please do not further extend this waste of time and taxpayer money.

I urge the Assembly to vote NO on Cooper, Ogle, and Bagley's Resolution 2018-053, to provide an opportunity for any individual borough resident to give invocation. While I appreciate this attempt to preserve the invocation while complying with the Superior Court's ruling, the selection process is sure to generate controversy. This effort will also fail the first time an inevitable "Hail Satan" or other presumably offensive invocation is delivered. Then the Assembly is back to square one.

There are other issues with this Resolution, including the imposition of the invocation on all listeners, whether in person, on the radio, or website. Not requiring the Assembly members to be present during the invocation only delays the start of the actual meeting, when time is always of essence. How much staff or assembly time will be spent (wasted) on keeping lists, vetting, and selecting the invocation speaker? This is unnecessarily complicated and needless.

I also urge the Assembly to vote NO on Assembly Vice-President Bagley's memo to amend Resolution 2018-053 if the assembly regrettably votes to appeal the Superior Court ruling. Allowing an interim invocation policy will still be controversial and consume valuable staff and assembly time as above. Reinstating the original, controversial Resolution 2016-056 is unwise, even if upon appeal it is affirmed to be constitutional.

The only solution to this quagmire is to ban the invocation completely and offer a moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting for reflection, or better, just get down to accomplishing the people's business.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Griswold  
Seward

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 3:19 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Kate Finn

**Your Email:** hundredthmonk21@gmail.com

**Subject:** Invocation at Assembly meetings

**Message:**

Dear All Assembly members,  
I am writing to request each of you votes to spend not one penny more litigating this ridiculous concern over the Assembly meeting invocations!  
Where are the "grown-ups" in this room? Council members Kelly, Ogle, and Bagley's resolution might indeed be workable. However, isn't it vastly less cumbersome to simply acknowledge that a Moment of Silence, is perfect. Each Assembly member can address his/her own Divine Being in a manner that is perfect for them. I've included what St. Mathew has said about public prayer in the Christian Bible:  
Matthew 6:5-6 "5- And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward, 6- Be Thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."  
Please come to a conclusion that let's each individual follow his/her own heart AND that does not cost the KPB tax payers one more cent. I deeply resent any of my money being used in this way! There are so many necessary expenses--maybe we could start with more money for the schools!  
I very much appreciate your time and effort in serving on the Assembly. Please end this invocation squabble at your next meeting on the 20th  
Gratefully,  
Kate Finn, Homer

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Kathryn Carssow <kcarssow@live.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 11, 2018 3:15 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

Dear Members of the Assembly, Please do not waste any more time or money on the invocation issue. Please put this matter to rest quickly and move on to do the work for which you have been elected. You are not there to speak to or decide on matters of religion. Follow your own moral and spiritual path as is helpful to you in representing borough residents and allow your fellow members to follow theirs. You have work to do!

Thank you.

Kathryn Carssow

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Judith A. James <jamesj@eou.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 11, 2018 4:04 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

Good afternoon,

As a longtime resident of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and a 6th-generation Christian, I am opposed to the Borough appealing the recent ruling on the Invocation for the following reasons (among others)

1. Separation of the spiritual and the political. Both the Holy Scriptures and the US Constitution mandate a separation of matters of personal faith from the affairs of State business. "My kingdom is not of this world", said Jesus.
2. Favoring one religious organization over another. This is specifically forbidden in the US Constitution for Congress, and certainly applies to local government as well.
3. the cost of appeal. In these times of strained budgets, has not enough been spent on this already?! More than enough! Let us get back to the rightful business of our communities.
4. An simple, constitutional, and cost-free solution exists: a Moment of Silence before meetings to allow each person present to pray to God in their own way, and to compose their thoughts for the business at hand. Surely this solution protects each person's right to practice a individual, personal relationship with God.

I urge the Assembly to adopt the Moment of Silence — a solution endorsed by many faith groups and individuals.

Respectfully Yours,

Judith A James

Homer

**Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Cheryl Green <greencl45@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 11, 2018 4:07 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** No invocation please

Please stop fighting about the invocation. Do not appeal the recent decision. Stop having an invocation.

If you must have something? Then a moment of silence. People can quietly pray in their own minds if they want or not.

Division of church and state. Just stop.

Thank you for asking my opinion,

Cheryl Green  
Homer Resident and voter  
1241 Iris Court

Sent from my iPhone

## **Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Amy Bollenbach <amybollenbach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 11, 2018 9:17 PM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation Policy

The plan of the Borough Assembly to allow only "approved" religious people to do the invocation clearly violates the 1st Amendment to the United States.

I strongly object to use taxpayer's money (including mine) to appeal the court's decision on this matter.

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 11, 2018 11:47 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** LYNN TAKEOKA SPENCE

**Your Email:** ltakeokaspence@gmail.com

**Subject:** Invocation

**Message:**

Dear Assembly Members,

Please do not spend any more public money or borough employee time on the invocation issue. As a taxpayer, I believe you have spent enough. The law is quite clear and I want the assembly to follow the law.

My Christian friends say they have a personal relationship with God and pray on their own at any time or place. They do not need to be led to pray. It is a part of their life that needs no leadership from the borough or any other public agency. I believe you can trust in the religious community to pray as they see fit without the borough's guidance or interference. I hope you have that faith in your constituents and yourselves.

Reaching a balanced budget is difficult enough without unessential legal costs. Please take invocation litigation out of the budget and out of the assembly meetings. I do not believe it is a responsible use of public money.

Sincerely,

Lynn Takeoka Spence

331 Mountain View Dr.  
Homer, AK 99603  
907-299-6646

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2018 3:41 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Gary Whiteley

**Your Email:** gary.whiteley@gmail.com

**Subject:** assembly invocation practices

**Message:**

Please DO NOT appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court a recent lower court decision that stops assembly invocation practices. There are more pressing issues that face the KPB and better uses of public money than on costly legal fees.

How about simply reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and emphasizing "Under God" in a loud forceful voice?

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2018 8:16 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Susan Amundson

**Your Email:** susie.amundson@gmail.com

**Subject:** Invocation

**Message:**

Dear Assembly Members:

I write about the Invocation process and potential appeal. Three words: LET. IT. GO. The cost-effective, inclusive solution is simple. Have 1 minute of Intentional Quiet to start your meeting. Everyone can set their intentions in their hearts and minds for the meeting through their most resonant silent avenue (e.g., God, Allah, nature). I have two businesses and property in this borough and I am not interested in my tax money debating this issue any more. Thank you!

## **Blankenship, Johni**

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2018 8:44 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Cheryl Green

**Your Email:** GreenCL45@hotmail.com

**Subject:** No on invocation appeal

**Message:**

Please stop the invocation issue! Waste of time and money. There are so many important issues I am counting on you addressing. A moment of silence would allow anyone who wants to pray quietly to their god to do so. Thank you for asking for your constituents to comment. Sincerely, Cheryl

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** FranandBob Moore <viewmoore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2018 8:45 AM  
**To:** G\_Notify\_AssemblyClerk  
**Subject:** Invocation

I would like to address all members of our borough assembly. What are you thinking??? You have spent over \$100,000 dollars to get the right to violate our state and national constitutions. Do not pursue an appeal or use any other money on the invocation fight. Spend a moment or a minute to breathe quietly and get on with the meeting. Whatever happened to perspective???

Sent from my iPhone

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2018 11:21 AM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Cynthia Morelli

**Your Email:** cmorelli@alaska.net

**Subject:** invocation at meetings

**Message:**

Dear Borough Assembly Members,

Please stop using valuable tax payer dollars to pay for litigation concerning invocation at borough meetings. The constitution clearly states that church and state remain separate. I respect everyone's right to practice the religion of their choice - privately, not as part of our government. I believe invocations at government functions are unconstitutional.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Morelli

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2018 3:47 PM  
**To:** BoroughAssembly  
**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members

**Your Name:** Sandra Garity

**Your Email:** aksandy612@gmail.com

**Subject:** Invocation

**Message:**

To the Assembly members.

I have read that the assembly is in the process of taking the Invocation decision back to court. As a constituent, I am asking the Assembly to stop this effort. Close to \$100,000.00 has been spent on this action to date and to spend Borough dollars in this method is unconscionable. IF the members insist on some type of invocation, the most fair approach is `1 minute of silence. This impacts all faiths and peoples in an equal manner. The judge has made a decision and enough is enough. There are several options available to the Borough outside of a legal approach. The moment of silence makes the most sense to me. To spend the limited tax dollars in this manner is malfeasance.

Thank you

## Blankenship, Johni

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**From:** Taz Tally <taztally@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 9:26 AM  
**To:** Blankenship, Johni  
**Cc:** Taz Tally  
**Subject:** Please Distribute to ALL Borough Assembly Members [Please Confirm Receipt]  
**Attachments:** PastedGraphic-2.tiff

Dear Johni,

Thank you for your call-back this morning!

Please distribute my following message to all the Borough Assembly Members.

Thank you!

Taz Tally

Homer

435-7906

Dear Borough Assembly Members,

The Borough Assembly Should Spend No More Money On the Invocation Issue

We are a nation established on the concept of numerous protections and freedoms including two fundamental protections and freedoms of: 1. The separation of church and state, the basic idea behind the establishment clauses of both the Alaska State Constitution and First Amendment of the US Constitution, and 2. The freedom of speech, also established under the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The Borough Assembly's continued attempt to exert power over who and which "religious" associations can be heard represents a direct assault on both of our fundamental freedoms of religion and expression.

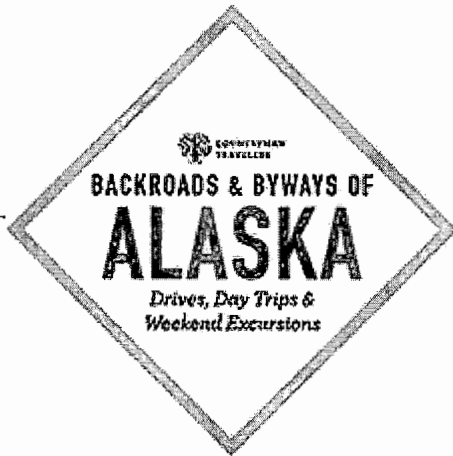
The mere use of the language "approved religious associations" must be considered unconstitutional, and therefore unacceptable, because, as stated, this language attempts to establish the Borough Assembly as an official arbiter of religious relevance and acceptability. Further, the Borough's attempt to limit or suppress the expression of any "unapproved" points of view, surely violates another of our cherished freedoms, our freedom of expression.

**To wit:** That our Borough Assembly continues to spend money to attack two of our constitutionally established and protected freedoms, and particularly during a time of budgetary crises, represents both constitutional and financial malfeasance. Please do not spend our precious fiscal resources to appeal the recent court ruling that held as unconstitutional the current Borough Assembly Policy limiting the participation in Borough invocations. Let's invest our money in education, infrastructure and other projects that benefit us all.

Thank you for all your work on our Kenai Assembly Borough!

My kind regards,  
Taz Tally

Homer  
435-7906



**Taz Tally: Author & Photographer**

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