

**Invocations At City Council Meetings
North Richland Hills**

8/10/09 - Councilperson Ken Sapp

"Lord, we honor your presence here this evening we acknowledge your greatness. We ask you for wisdom. We thank you for your grace. We appreciate your guidance in our daily lives and most of all we thank you for your forgiveness of our shortcomings. While we have many things to be thankful, Lord, we have residents tonight that face personal and financial challenges. We ask you, Lord, for your guidance, your wisdom, and your comfort for each of these and each circumstance. And tonight, Lord, we would be remiss if we did not remember the men and women who serve us at home and abroad in protecting our safety. We thank you for those that are called to this duty and ask for your protection over them. And as we deliberate the matters of our city this evening let us do so in a matter that honors the trust placed in us to perform this duty. And in closing, Lord, we ask that you lay your hand of mercy and comfort on those in sickness and ill health. Specifically, Lord, tonight we continue to pray for your healing hand on the son-in-law and daughter of our city manager. And we ask that you speed their recovery and return them safely to the fellowship of their family. Forgive us our shortcomings, bless us in all things. In your name we pray, Amen"

7/27/09 - Councilperson Tom Lombard

“Please join me in prayer. Heavenly Father, as we begin our deliberations, we ask that you guide this council towards patience and understanding of the various points of view in addressing the issues facing our city. We ask that you watch over our police officers and firefighters who are on duty protecting our businesses, homes and families. We pray for the safety of the men and women of our armed services which are defending our liberties and finally for our citizens who are in distress and physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We ask that you extend your gentle and loving hand to grant them solace in their time of need. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.”

7/13/09 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Would you join me in prayer please. Lord, we thank you for the right to assemble freely to make decisions on behalf of our citizens, and we ask also that your guiding hand can be upon both our international, national and state leaders as well as the leaders assembled here this evening that we make decisions that are pleasing unto you. At the same time we ask that your healing hand be on the wife of Ken Sapp who is ailing in the hospital, also a couple of members of the family of our city manager, Larry Cunningham, that that healing process can move along. We ask all these things in your name, Amen.”

6/22/09 - Councilperson Tim Barth

“Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for your many blessings that you give us. We thank you for your love, your wisdom and your guidance. We ask that you inspire us as we address the issues in front of our city this evening. We also ask that you protect our city,

especially our fire department and police department as they work to keep our city safe and secure. In your son's name we pray, Amen.”

6/8/09 - Councilman Ken Sapp

“Please pray with me. Lord, tonight we have a great deal to be thankful for. We thank you that we are able to assemble as a free people. We're thankful for the wisdom of our nation's founders in formulating the documents that convey the freedoms that we too often take for granted. We're thankful, Lord, for the inspired vision that said that we are one nation, under god, with liberty and justice for all. And we're thankful, Lord, for our founders understanding that even if it is uncomfortable, freedom is only realized if people are able to openly express differences of opinion without fear of retaliation and oppression. And, Father, as we approach the anniversary of our nation, help us all to remember to cherish and passionately protect these values. And today, Lord, as our nation faces difficult challenges on many fronts, we pray you will provide our leaders with the same wisdom and courage of action that guided our founders. In closing, our Lord, in a moment of sadness we acknowledge the passing of Geraldine McCreer, the spouse, wife and life partner of mayor, Pat McCreer. We ask that you comfort this family during this period of sorrow. Be with us this evening, guide us as we conduct our city's business. Forgive us where we fail thee. Those things we ask in your name, amen.”

5/18/09 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Please pray with me. Almighty God, we thank you for this gathering tonight. Again we ask your wisdom to be bestowed on this group, the presentations to be given to this group that we may be wise in the decisions that we make. We thank you for the talented people that we have working for the city of North Richland Hills. We thank you for the many blessings given them. Be honor to your name, Amen”

5/11/09 – Councilperson Susan Compton

“With respect to all other faiths, I ask that you please pray with me. Most gracious and Heavenly Father, thank you for our many blessings, especially those of health, happiness and hope. Father, we ask that you watch over this council and all citizens gathered here this evening and we ask for your special guidance as we conduct the meeting set before us. Father, as our country prepares for Memorial Day in a couple of weeks remember all past and current servicemen and women who unselfishly serve and continue to serve our country no matter where and when they are stationed, and we will continue to remember with compassion those who have died while serving their country. Father, please watch over the graduating seniors of Birdville High School, Haltom High School and Richland High School. May these community seniors embark on a bright future and filled with many successes. Father, we ask that you watch over all of your children, especially those who are sick and ailing. And finally, as this council continues to serve the citizens of North Richland Hills, we ask for your guidance to help us make the decisions that will serve the best interests of our fine city. Your guidance will continue to see us through. And in your name we pray, amen.”

4/27/09 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Would you all join me in prayer. Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to come together to pursue our civic responsibilities. And we ask that everyone in this room be here in their actions. Make it evident that they are for what is best for their community. We thank you for the life giving rain and for the new life of the season. We ask all these things in our son’s name, Amen.”

4/13/09- Councilperson David Whitson

“Please join me in prayer. God, we come to you tonight with thanks in our heart. We ask your wisdom be provided to this group. We thank you for the guidance you’ve given us. We thank you for our city manager, management staff and all the employees of the city for the heart they have for the citizens of North Richland Hills. We ask that your protective hand be put on all military. They provide us with the freedoms we have and the protections that we have today. In your name we pray, Amen.”

3/23/09 - Councilperson Tim Barth

“Let us pray. Heavenly Father, your wisdom includes an understanding of what is fair, what is logical, what is true, what is right and what is lasting. We ask that you grant us your wisdom as we consider the business before us this evening. In your son’s name we pray, Amen.”

3/9/09 - Councilperson Ken Sapp

“Please pray with me. Our Father and our God, Lord, we acknowledge your greatness and your authority over all things. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. We’re thankful to live in a great nation, a great state and a great city. We’re thankful for our liberties and our opportunities. And amongst all this, dear Lord, we know there are some this evening that have doubts about their future or the outcomes that are before them. And we would ask you to lay your comforting hand on them and also soften the hearts of compassion for those that might be willing to help out others in their time of need. Father, we honor those who serve us here at home and abroad protecting our safety and our liberty. When that job places them in harm’s way we ask that you shelter them in your comforting arms. And where that service takes them apart from their family be with their family during this time. Be with us tonight as we deliberate the business of our city. Grant us wisdom and allow us to apply that wisdom with courage that honors the trust that our residents placed in us. Forgive us where we fail thee. And all these things we ask in our lord’s most precious name, Amen.”

2/23/09 - Councilperson Susan Compton

“Almighty God, ruler of the universe, by your power we move and have our being. We are gathered here today to serve you and conduct the affairs of our fine city. Give us knowledge and strength to do your will with a proper balance of eternal values and our present needs. May we accept our responsibilities and act with courage considering the feelings of other people. We ask for your healing hand for all those who are sick and suffering. And we ask that you continue to watch over all of our soldiers deployed to the many cities in our world and grant that their work brings peace and hope to communities everywhere. Grant us a sense of justice and stewardship both now and forever, Amen.”

2/9/09 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to gather in this forum this evening. And as we progress through the evening please help us to be aware of all the wonderful blessings that have been bestowed upon us. For the privilege we have of living in this great country, in this great state in this fine local community. Please place your hand of wisdom on our shoulder for the decisions we make here tonight. And please help us be aware of your presence as we move throughout the rest of the week. And we ask this in your son’s name, Amen.”

1/26/09 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Please pray with me. Almighty God, we come to you tonight with matters that are going before this council. We ask for you wisdom to give us the knowledge to go ahead and vote for the good of the citizens. We thank you again for our armed services personnel that your guiding hand will be on them that they will make it back home safely. We thank you for their protection and the protection of our freedoms. We lift up those who are sick, for those who have lost loved ones that your comforting hand be on them also. This we ask in your name, Amen.”

1/12/09 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Please pray with me. Dear Lord, we come to you tonight with numerous projects in front of this great body. We want to thank you for the great staff you have given us to provide us with information what we might make some wise decisions. We want to continue to lift up our armed forces both here and abroad. We pray for their safety, we pray for their mission that they all may return home safely. We pray for the new president coming in that the transition may be ease and that his mission be forward thinking. In your name we pray, Amen.”

12/22/08 - Councilperson Susan Compton

“With respect to all faiths would you pray with me. Most gracious and Heavenly Father, thank you for this wonderful winter day. Thank you for allowing this council to come together tonight with the purpose of continuing to help the residents and patrons of our fine city. In the darkness of winter your light shines within our hearts filling us with great joy. Let your blessing rest upon each one of us here tonight and extend special blessings to all of your children throughout the world, especially those who are separated from their family and friends this holiday season, whether through illness, work, school, homelessness, death or whatever the reason that keeps them apart. We also pray that your spirit strengthens and protects our armed services brothers and sisters who are deployed throughout the world sacrificing so much to attain the peace that we all seek. Be with them and their families never leaving them alone. Guide all of us to be instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred so let us love, where there is injury pardon, where there is doubt faith, where there is despair hope, where there is darkness light and where this is sadness joy. In the spirit of this holiday season both near and far we pray that with hope of peace on earth and goodwill to all, Amen.”

12/08/08 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Our most gracious and Heavenly Father, we thank you for the citizens that are in attendance tonight that care enough about civic affairs to be present. We thank you for the North Richland Hills staff members that are here this evening. We also thank you as elected officials for the opportunity that we have to serve these fine citizens of North Richland Hills. And as we enter

into this most holy of seasons we just ask that everyone can be of the aware of the significance of this special season. We ask all these things in your son's name, Amen.”

11/24/08 Councilperson Tim Barth

“Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we come to you this evening and ask that you open our hearts and our minds to your will as we attempt to resolve the issues facing us this evening. We thank you for the many blessings that you've given us, the quality of life you've given us here in North Richland Hills, the excellent city staff, police department and fire department that we have here that adds to our quality of life. We pray for our leaders, especially those that have been recently elected. Help them to build bridges and to look for ways to resolve problems that are consistent with your will and plan for all of us. We pray for these things in your name, Amen.”

11/10/08 Councilperson David Whitson

“Please pray with me. Almighty God, we come to you tonight with blessings that we sometimes don't deserve. We ask that your wisdom be bestowed on this body for all matters before the city council tonight. We thank you for the many blessings on the great staff that Mr. Cunningham has put together. And keeping the lines of communication open, it makes life in the city of North Richland Hills so easy. We thank you for these many blessings. Lord, we lift up all of our armed services personnel both active to protect our freedoms. We thank you for the many talents that you give each one. We ask that your protection of your hand be bestowed on each one. We thank you for the veterans of the past wars and thank you for all of the sacrifices that they had to go through or we would not see the freedoms they have given us. In this the most blessed name we pray, Amen.”

10/27/08 - Councilperson Susan Compton

“Most gracious and Heavenly Father, thank you for this beautiful autumn day. Thank you for allowing this council to come together tonight with the purpose of continuing to help the residents and patrons of our fine city. We ask for your special blessing for our servicemen and women both home and abroad. May each one find that the work he or she is doing has a genuine purpose and meaning. Be with them as they work unselfishly for the freedom and protection of others. Father, we ask that you continue to hold our police and fire personnel safely in your hands as they provide protection and security to us daily. Please continue to watch over our city staff members as they work to keep North Richland Hills one of the most livable communities in our country. Father, you deeply value the qualities of good judgment and discernment, but it is easy for us to lose sight of them. Guide all those who will vote in the upcoming national, state and local elections a sense of discernment and sound judgment and let that discernment in turn bring discerning leaders into office. Please watch over the soul of Fort Worth Councilman Chuck Silcox. We want to remember him and his family in this time of their need. In this we pray, Amen.”

10/13/08 - Councilperson Ken Sapp

“Please stand. Pray with me if you would. Our great, powerful and all knowing God, tonight we come to you with the understanding that many of our citizens are troubled with their finances and the uncertainty of the nation's economy. This concern also comes at a time when we are in the process of deciding on the individuals who will govern our local, state and federal government.

Selecting our leaders is an important task and these choices are never easy. But God you know that these decisions are affected by emotions and other earthly influences. And we ask and pray dear Lord that you will loose us from our earthly temptations and be guided by your calm influence and celestial wisdom. We are also reminded Lord that your blessings follow when we accept your guidance. Guide our deliberations here tonight, protect those that serve us at home and abroad. Forgive us where we fail thee. And with respect for all faiths and all religions, I pray this in the name of my Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.”

9/22/08 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to gather here this evening in your presence to consider the city’s business. We ask that your guiding hand be upon our shoulders this evening. Also we want to lift up the victims of the hurricane along the Texas coast. We just ask that you can be a comfort to those people many of whom seek to return home this week. We pray these things in your name, Amen.”

9/8/08 - Councilperson Tim Barth

“Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we ask for your wisdom, your inspiration and your creativity as we respond to the issues before us this evening. We ask that you open our minds to the vision that you have for our city and help us to overcome any obstacles set before us. We pray for all those candidates that may be seeking office this election cycle. Help them to communicate clearly and help open our minds and hearts to their message. We also ask that you give strength and fortitude to all those that serve us overseas. We ask that you bring them home safely to us. We pray for these things in your name, Amen.”

8/26/08 - Councilperson Ken Sapp

“Please join me as we pray. Heavenly Father, Lord, we acknowledge your sovereignty over all things and we thank you for the blessings we have all been fortunate to receive. We’re grateful, Lord, for those who serve our city and all the others who nobly work to protect our safety here at home and abroad. We honor their service and ask you to watch over them in the performance of their duties. We also ask, Lord, for your presence here this evening. Guide our thoughts, our actions as stewards of the city resources and as the custodians of the issues affecting the welfare of our employees and our residents. Lord, as you have said in your word that if we follow your guidance we’ll be blessed as a city and as a nation. Never, Lord, do we need this wisdom more than we do now as we evaluate the fundamental values, principles, and individuals we select to govern our nation. Forgive us where we fall short of your expectations. Guide and direct us in all of our actions. For it is in the name of our savior, Jesus’ name, Amen.”

8/11/08 - Councilperson Susan Compton

“Most gracious and Heavenly Father, thank you for this beautiful summer day. Thank you for allowing this council to come together tonight with the purpose of continuing to help the residents and patrons of our fine city. We ask for your special blessings for our servicemen and women both home and abroad and may each one find that the work that he or she is doing has genuine purpose and meaning. Be with them as they work unselfishly for the freedom and protection of others. We ask that you continue to bless our city public servants, continue to hold our police and fire personnel safely in your hands as they provide safety protection and security

for us daily. Please continue to watch over our city staff members as they work to keep North Richland Hills one of the most livable communities in our country. We are truly blessed and truly thankful for all that you have given us and we ask that you watch over all those gathered here tonight and keep each of us safe on our journey home. In your name we pray, Amen.”

7/28/08 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Lord, we humbly thank you for the opportunity that we have to assemble here to conduct the city’s business this evening. We ask that as we conduct this business that we have your guiding hand of wisdom upon our shoulder. Also, we want to lift up all of these wonderful employees with all the service that they provide and their wonderful spirit that they have in serving the citizens of North Richland Hills. We ask this in your name, Amen.”

7/14/08 - Councilperson Tim Barth

“Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we come to you this evening with humble hearts, seeking your guidance and your wisdom as we address the issues in front of us tonight. We thank you for the many blessings you’ve given our city, our first rate police and fire departments, our great city staff, all the volunteers that serve on our boards and commissions. We ask and we pray that you protect our soldiers overseas, give them strength and fortitude. In these things we pray in your name, Amen.”

6/23/08 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Please pray. Almighty God, we thank you for the wisdom you’ve given us throughout these weeks. We thank you for the wisdom and the path you have shown this council. We really appreciate the talents that you’ve given us and the great staff and employees of the city. Again we lift up our soldiers that are on foreign soils and those that are here in the US protecting our freedoms. We thank god for the freedoms we do have and the security that we do have. In your name we pray, Amen.”

6/9/08 - Councilperson Ken Sapp

“ Please pray with me. Our Heavenly Father, Lord we’re thankful to be in thy presence tonight. Dear Lord, we ask that you watch over us and you guide our thoughts and our actions as we proceed with this evening’s city council meeting. Father, we have so many things to be thankful for and we’re grateful for thy hand thy presence and how you have affected our country and our lives. Father, we ask of you tonight that you be with all of those that serve us here at home and abroad. Keep them safe, watch over them, dear Lord, and we thank you for their service. Father, tonight we ask for a special hand tonight for our fellow Councilman, Suzie Compton, in the loss of her mother. Be with the family, dear Lord, in this time of grief and comfort them as they move forward. Be with us tonight, forgive us in where we fail thee. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”

5/27/08 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Please pray with me. Almighty God, we thank you for the veterans of this nation and all nations. We thank you for what they stand for. We thank you for the freedoms that they have fought for, the many wars, the many battlefields. We thank you for the peacetime veterans also, Lord, that they are there to protect our freedoms. We appreciate you giving them the wisdom, the

strength to endure all the trials. We thank you for all the elected officials, Lord, and the items that gonna be brought before this council tonight. May you grant us wisdom that may carry on. In your name we pray, Amen.”

5/13/08 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Our most Heavenly Father, those of us who sit at the front of this room thank you for the privilege of serving this fine community, and for those of us about to undertake an oath to lead this community for the next couple of years, we ask for your divine guidance as we make decisions that govern the affairs of the citizens of North Richland Hills. At this same time, Lord, we want to ask that you protect all of those who seek to protect us, both domestically and overseas. And we ask all these things in your name, Amen.”

4/28/08 – Councilperson Ken Sapp

“Please stand and pray with me, please. Heavenly Father, Lord, you are a great and gracious god. Father, we’re thankful to live in such a wonderful city that we have to live in, work in, to play, to worship. And Father, of all the blessings that you have provided for us we thank you, Lord, for the power of prayer. As we look forward to this week to Thursday that has been designated as a National Day of Prayer, we would ask, Lord, that everyone take a knee, thank them for their personal blessings, as for grace for those who may be less fortunate. Pray for the safety of those that are in harm’s way, particularly those who protect our safety and our freedom. And, Lord, we ask for wisdom, wisdom for our elected leaders and wisdom for us who elect those leaders in the coming months and in the remainder of the year. Father, be with us during these proceedings, guide and direct our actions and deeds. Forgive us where we fail thee. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”

4/14/08 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Please join me in prayer. Almighty God, we thank you for the beautiful weather you’ve given us. We thank you for the protection that you’ve shown us with the bad storms coming through, the people that had no damage and minor damage. We thank you for our veterans, Lord, and the wisdom and strength you give each one to protect our freedoms and we thank you for the freedoms that it give us. Thank you for the great staff that we have in our great city. For all the citizens we thank you for the fire, police and public works for doing the great job they are doing in supporting each one. We ask that your wisdom be given to this group of people here that make the decisions before the council tonight. In your name we pray, Amen.”

3/24/08 – Councilperson Tim Barth

“Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many blessings that you’ve given to us both as individuals and as a community. We ask for your strength and guidance as we consider the issues before us tonight. And always keeping in mind our citizens and the common good for all of them. We also pray for our national and state leaders, we ask that you give them your strength and guidance and wisdom as they make decisions that affect all of us. We pray for our soldiers overseas, we ask that you give them strength, protection and fortitude and bring them safely home to us. In these things we pray, Amen.”

3/17/08 – Councilperson Susan Compton

“In keeping with St. Patrick’s Day we will say the prayer of St. Patrick which was fitting for all people. So pray with me. May the strength of God guide us, may the power of God preserve us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the way of God direct us, may the shield of God protect us, may the angels of God guard us against the evil one, may God’s grace always be ours today and forevermore, Amen.”

2/25/08 – Councilperson Ken Sapp

“Please stand with me if you would, please. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Lord we are thankful to enjoy the many blessings you have provided for us, Lord, both in our personal well being and the marvelous country that we live in. Father, we are gratefully thankful for the many who serve in public offices and who protect our safety, many in harm’s way, Father, and some pay the ultimate sacrifice in performing this duty. Father, we are grateful for these individuals both in our military and also in our police and fire departments. Tonight, dear Lord, we ask a special blessing on the family of officer Victor Lucado who was tragically killed in Dallas this weekend. Be with his family, provide your grace to him. Father, we just ask that tonight you be with us as we deliberate the business of our city. Give us the right guidance to make the proper decisions and to do the will of our people. In all these things we ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

2/11/08 - Mayor Pro Tem Scott Turnage

“Lord, we ask for your guiding hand that you would impart wisdom to us tonight as we make decisions for our community. We also ask for your hand of comfort on the people of Missouri where a tragic incident unfolded last week and several people lost their lives. Please continue to rain your blessings down upon us. We thank you for the wonderful blessings that have come our way. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

1/28/08 - Councilperson David Whitson

“Lord, thank you for this gathering you’ve given us. Thank you for the thoughts, the openness and the information that will be provided us. We ask your wisdom be bestowed on each member of council that we may make the right decisions for the good of the city. We thank you for our freedoms. We thank you for putting your hand of safety on our armed forces overseas as they protect those freedoms. In your name we pray, Amen.”