

Dear Religious Leader:

The Chesapeake City Council has for many years opened the evening session of all regular meetings with an invocation. We have had widespread participation from local religious organizations in the past and hope that we can count on you for the coming year. We would like to extend an invitation to you to be a part of the meetings by bringing an invocation at the start of one of the sessions. All evening sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall Building, 306 Cedar Road; you may leave as soon as the invocation has been given.

As in the past, the purpose of the invocation is to invoke divine guidance for the Members of City Council as they conduct public business. The City maintains a policy to include religious leaders of all denominations and from all areas of the City. No one religion or denomination is preferred over any other, nor should any religion be disparaged. Invocations are welcome, not as an opportunity to advance a particular religion or system of beliefs, but as a time of reflection and encouragement that will be meaningful to the members of City Council and show respect for the rich diversity of beliefs found in Chesapeake. In order to find common ground in shared beliefs, the policy asks that the invocation not proselytize, nor reference any particular religious figure, image or symbol. Teachings and prayers should reflect universal values, rather than beliefs unique to a particular religion or recitations from a particular scripture. The invocation should be inclusive and embracing, in accord with the ideals of American culture and heritage.

Enclosed you will find a list of the tentatively scheduled 2010 meeting dates. Please review the list and let my office know if you would be available to give the invocation on any of the dates listed. Please check all available dates and return the list to me at your earliest convenience (fax # 382-6678). As soon as responses have been received and the schedule has been compiled, I will send you a letter notifying you of your scheduled date to provide the invocation. If your date(s) selection is already taken, your name will be placed on a "standby" list and you may be contacted should an opening occur on one of the meeting nights.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and participation; I look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 382-6151.

Sincerely,

Dolores A. Moore, MMC
City Clerk

Enclosure