

City Council Invocations
Bakersfield, CA

November 4, 2009: Reverend James Lair, First Assembly of God Church

Shall we pray. Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for everyone that's gathered in this room tonight. Everyone here cares about this community and about this city, and Lord, you care even more. And so God, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength. Lord, our community is facing challenges, and God, there may be many answers, but God, you know the best answers. And Father I thank you for these men and women who are willing to give up their time, and their service, and their careers to serve as public servants. And Lord, your Word says that all authority is established by God, and so Lord, though they have been our elected officials, we also recognize that you choose them as well. And so Lord, we support them, and we stand behind them, and God we ask that you would give them the wisdom that they need to lead this great city. And Father, I thank you for this younger generation that's represented here tonight as well, and God I pray that we would set a good example for them of good governance, Lord, of integrity, of honorable service. And so Lord, I just pray that, in a sense, that the mantle and the baton would be passed to them, that they would even go to greater heights and do greater things. And so Lord, we just pray that your spirit will be in this place and God as this, as we see Lord, this seal that is in this chamber: out of many, one. And so Lord, we may have many ideas and many perspectives, but I pray for a unity, Lord, an agreement that we would come together, so that our city may prosper, and that we may overcome the difficulties we face in poverty, and in financial needs, and in health needs. And so God, I thank you for all these that are gathered in this place and willing to serve humanity and to serve you. And so we ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

October 7, 2009: Pastor Haywood Cox, Church of God

Hello Mayor, Council and City staff, I just want to say thanks for inviting me here to do this invocation. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for life, freedom and the blessings you pour on us every day. We thank you for our honorable Mayor and City Council, they sit in your seat and they are requesting your presence and blessings in tonight's proceedings. I pray that you honor their requests and meet them here with your divine wisdom in special favor. Lord God, may you bless them and keep them, may you cause your face to shine upon them and be gracious to them. Lift up your countenance on these your servants, and bring them peace. And we pray this in the name of your Dear Son. Amen.

September 23, 2009:

God so loved the world that he gave his only forgotten (sic) son to whose believing in him shall not perish and have everlasting life, John 3:16. We offer prayer tonight for our

Council meeting, for our councilpersons, and for our citizens of Bakersfield. We pray that we will get proper guidance and cooperation over the meeting tonight, and we pray that we make the right decision for the betterment of all the citizens of Bakersfield. Amen.

September 9, 2009: Father Joseph Chaffey, St George's Greek Orthodox Church

O Master Lord our God, the source of all life and immortality, the author of all created things, both visible and invisible, who has established all seasons and times by thine own authority and dost direct all things with an all-wise and all-gracious providence, we thank you for your bounties which you have always poured out upon us during our life that is past. And we entreat you, all-bountiful Lord, bless this your par (?), your Council, City Council, and all civil authority that you have granted us. Bestow upon them and all your people of this City, and this county, good things from above: health, salvation, good furtherance in all things. Deliver this city and all cities and countryside's from evil assault, and vouchsafe unto them peace and tranquility, and grant that we may always off thanksgiving unto you, the original Father, together at the beginning, your only begotten son and the all-holy good and life-giving spirit, now and ever and into ages of ages. Amen.