
**CITY OF COSTA MESA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Pro Tem Allan Mansoor

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COUNCIL POLICY REPLACING INVOCATIONS WITH A MOMENT OF SOLEMN EXPRESSION

DATE: February 25, 2004

The City Council was previously advised by the City Attorney's Office of a court decision (California Court of Appeal *Rubin et al. v. City of Burbank*) that impacts the manner in which invocations are accommodated by city government. Since this decision in 2002, municipalities around the state have considered various options to the traditional practice of invocations to come into compliance with the court's decision.

In working with the City Attorney's Office on this matter, I suggested consideration of an alternative to the traditional invocation developed by the Pacific Justice Institute. Use of a Moment of Solemn Expression, as detailed in the attached material from the City Attorney's Office, is intended to address the court's decision while retaining the ability for members of the community to assist Council Members to remember the seriousness of their oaths and obligations in serving the public.

I requested that this matter be brought forward for consideration by the full City Council.

/df/cg

[Attachment A – Memo to Mayor Pro Tem Mansoor](#)

[Attachment B – Council Policy 000-12](#)

[Attachment C – Sample Letter Moment of Solemn Expression](#)

c: Acting City Attorney
City Manager
Deputy City Clerk