

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-9

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN INVOCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE
FOR THE HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the County of Harvey, State of Kansas, herein after referred to as the “County”;

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court in Marsh vs Chambers, 463 U.S., 783 noted “The opening of sessions of legislative and other declarative bodies with prayer is deeply embedded in the history and tradition of this country.” The Court also stated “In light of the unambiguous and unbroken history of more than 200 years, there can be no doubt that the practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer has become a part of the fabric of our society. To invoke divine guidance on a public body entrusted with making the laws ... Simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among people of this country”;

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Harvey County, Kansas finds that prayer lends gravity to public business, reminds members of this Board to transcend differences in pursuit of higher purposes and expresses a common aspiration to a just and peaceful society;

WHEREAS, It is the intent and purpose of the Board of County Commissioners of Harvey County, Kansas to establish and implement a policy which will allow for the presentation of prayer upon the commencement of its public meetings for the purpose of dignifying those occasions; to encourage participation to act on their noblest talents; and to foster the humility that recognition of a higher hand in human affairs can bring.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS, that effective February 14, 2023 the County hereby establishes a policy and procedure for the presentation of a prayer upon the commencement of its public meetings by the procedures established by this resolution.

The Policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Harvey County, Kansas, for the purpose of presenting a prayer upon the commencement of its public meeting shall be as follows:

At the commencement of the regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Harvey County, Kansas, a prayer may be presented that will lend gravity to the occasion and to reflect values long part of this nation’s heritage.

The expectations are that the prayer is solemn and respectful in tone, and invites reflection upon shared ideals and common ends before embarkment on the sometimes fractious business of governing. The prayer shall not include proselytization, denigration of individuals of different faiths or non-believers, threaten damnation, or preach conversion.

The Harvey County Administration department shall have the responsibility to identify persons from the community who have an interest in presenting a brief, solemn

and respectful prayer. Administration staff will familiarize presenters with the spirit and intent of the policy, prepare a list and schedule.

On those occasions when a person on the list is not available, a moment of silence may be held in lieu of a prayer.

No member of the County Commission, employee of the County or any other person in attendance at the meeting shall be required to participate in the invocation.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Harvey County, Kansas this 31st day of January, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS

By _____
Randy Hague, Chairperson

By Becky Reimer
Becky Reimer, Member

By Don Schroeder
Don Schroeder, Member



ATTEST:

Rick Piepho
Rick Piepho, County Clerk