

STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: B-19
SECTION: Board Policy
DATE: 12/12/2019
SUPERSEDES: New
TITLE: Invocation at Board Meetings

Invocation at Board Meetings

The Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District Board believes that authorizing invocations at board meetings is consistent with the board's values and has long been a part of our nation's heritage. Prayers and invocations that are solemn and respectful in tone, that invite board members to reflect upon the shared ideals and common ends of the difficult business of governing serve to set a serious tone in which the members of the board may conduct the people's business. The opportunity to provide an invocation at a board meeting shall be open to all religions and the board shall maintain a policy of nondiscrimination.

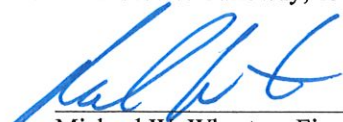
Prayers or invocations shall not denigrate nonbelievers or religious minorities, proselytize, advance or disparage any religion or belief, promote harm to people, or threaten damnation or preach conversion. In all other respects, the board will not regulate the content of the prayers or invocations presented at board meetings.

Invocations shall not last more than three minutes, and it is expected that the invocation focus on the governing board leadership, staff of the district and the people we serve. Presenters should be sensitive to the issues on the agenda for the particular meeting and the emotional concerns of those in attendance.

Each December employees of the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District staff will post a notice on the SCFPD website to solicit the names of volunteers to deliver the invocation for the next calendar year. Persons interested in delivering an invocation must send a letter of interest in writing or email to by the specified date. The names will be chosen at random and those accepted will receive written confirmation by email from the Board Clerk. Confirmations will identify the date and time for their invocation. If the person who was selected to deliver the invocation is unable to attend or is a no show, the chairman of the meeting may request a volunteer from the audience.


Reference: Town of Greece v. Galloway, 134 S.Ct. 1811 (2014); Rubin v. City of Lancaster, 710 F.3d 1087 (9th Cir. 2013).

Written by:



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Approved by:



Greg Bernardi, Board President