

City of Culver City, California Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 06/09/14	Item Number: A-1
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: (1) Consideration of the Section Titled “Invocation” Which Appears on the City Council and Other City Legislative Body Agendas, and (2) (If Desired) Direction to the City Manager Related Thereto.	
Contact Person/Dept.: Martin R. Cole	Phone Number: (310) 253-6000
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒	General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒
Public Hearing: ☐	Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☐
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒ Date: _____	
Public Notification: Meetings and Agendas – City Council (06/04/14); Publication of a Courtesy Notice (05/29/14 and 06/05/14); Posting on the City’s Electronic Public Notification Page and Gov-Delivery Notice (06/03/14)	
Department Approval: Martin R. Cole (06/02/14)	City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (06/03/14)
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (06/03/14)	City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (06/03/14)
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> It is recommended the City Council consider the subject of the section titled “Invocation” which appears on the City Council and other City Legislative Body Agendas, and (2) (if desired) provide direction to the City Manager regarding this subject. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> During the May 12, 2014 City Council meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager to place this discussion on an upcoming agenda. Staff has provided public notification regarding this subject in accordance with the public notification noted above. <u>DISCUSSION:</u> California Government Code Section 54950, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Act), includes a requirement for a Legislative Body (as defined in the Act) to post an agenda for its meetings and also sets forth general requirements of the contents of the agenda {Section 54954.2(a)(1) and (2)}. Such requirements do not include the legal requirement for an Invocation, nor is it legally prohibited by the Act. As a matter of past practice and as a matter of staff’s recollection, the term “Invocation” has appeared on the City Council agendas since at least 1970 (and it is highly likely the practice goes back even further).	

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In addition to the provisions of the Brown Act, courts generally have found that a City Council may make the determination whether to place an invocation on the City Council Agenda. There is no legal requirement to do so, nor is there a prohibition against it. A City Council may determine to place an invocation (which might involve prayer under certain parameters) or other similar type of item on the agenda (for example “thought for the day” or “weekly inspiration”), or determine to have no such item.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Discuss this item and direct the City Manager as deemed appropriate.