

RESOLUTION NO. 25-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTING AN INVOCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR BOARD MEETINGS

WHEREAS, legislative prayer has long been understood as compatible with the First Amendment, lending gravity to public proceedings and reflecting shared ideals; and

WHEREAS, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of respecting diverse beliefs and maintaining decorum at public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors seeks to adopt a clear and respectful procedure for invocations at its Regular Meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors as follows:

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the following Invocation Procedure for Regular Meetings:

- a. Each Regular Meeting shall commence with an invocation, with the responsibility for coordinating the invocation rotating among the Supervisors. The invocation is offered in the long-honored tradition of legislative invocations in Arizona – to seek divine guidance for our civic leaders and to recognize our shared ideals, always with respect for those of any faith or no faith.
- b. The Supervisor designated for the meeting may:
 - i. Personally offer the invocation; or
 - ii. Invite a community member from their district to offer the invocation; or
 - iii. Choose a volunteer who has submitted a request from their district to deliver the invocation.
- c. Invocations shall not exceed two (2) minutes in duration.

- d. The content of the invocation shall not be subject to review or restriction by the Board or County staff.
- e. In the absence of an invited invocation speaker, the Chair may call for a moment of silence.
- f. Invocations must remain respectful and are prohibited from proselytizing, denigrating other beliefs, or promoting any particular religion. The invocation is not an opportunity to proselytize or to disparage any faith, belief, or non-belief. Violation of this section will disqualify the presenter from offering invocations at any future meeting.
- g. Participation in the invocation is entirely voluntary and shall not be required of attendees or participants at the meeting. No member of the Board or audience shall be required to participate in any invocation. Individuals may remain seated or exit the room as they deem appropriate, and such decisions will not be noted in the minutes or draw any response.
- h. The content of invocations is at the discretion of the speaker and does not reflect an official endorsement by Cochise County of any particular faith or belief.

Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Frank Antenori, Chairman
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Paul Correa 4/4/2025
Paul Correa
Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney