

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

CA 1
10/13/09
MVB

Date: October 13, 2009

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Ron Smith, Vice-Mayor

Subject: **Ballot Measure Concerning Invocation Policy**

Recommendation:

Give direction concerning placing a measure relating to the invocation policy on the ballot for the April 13, 2010 General Municipal Election.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost of placing the matter on the ballot is estimated to be \$6,000.00.

Discussion:

At previous City Council meetings there has been discussion about whether to place a measure on the ballot to allow the citizens to advise the City Council as to whether or not they want the City Council to continue to follow the recently adopted invocation policy. An advisory measure could be placed on the ballot for the April 13, 2010 General Municipal Election. The text of the measure could read as follows:

“In response to the complaint of the ACLU with respect to invocations containing references to Jesus Christ, shall the City Council continue its invocation policy of randomly selecting local clergy of different faiths to deliver the invocation without restricting the content based on their beliefs, including references to Jesus Christ?”

If the council desires to proceed with this measure, it will be brought back as part of the election package that will be presented at the meeting of November 10, 2009.