



# City of Clearlake

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, California 95422  
(707) 994-8201 Fax (707) 995-2653

April 13, 2022

Dear Congregation Leader,

The City Council makes it a policy to invite members of the clergy as well as interested members of the public in the City of Clearlake to voluntarily offer an invocation before the beginning of its meetings, for the benefit and blessing of the City Council. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that such invocations are “meant to lend gravity to the occasion and reflect values long part of the Nation’s heritage. Invocations that are solemn and respectful in tone, that invites lawmakers to reflect upon shared ideals and common ends before they embark on the fractious business of governing, serves that legitimate function.” Town of Greece v. Galloway, 134 S. Ct. 1811, 1823 (U.S. 2014).

As the leader of one of the congregations with an established presence in the local community of the City of Clearlake, or in your capacity as a chaplain for one of the fire departments or law enforcement agencies of the City of Clearlake, you are invited to offer this important service at an upcoming meeting of the City Council.

If you are willing to assist the City Council in this regard, please send a written reply at your earliest convenience to the City Clerk at the address included on this letterhead. Clergy are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, a random basis, or some other transparent and impartial basis as determined by the City. The dates of the City Council's scheduled meetings for the upcoming year are listed on the following, attached pages. If you have a preference among the dates, please state that request in your written reply.

At this time, the Council Meetings are open to the public for attendance in the City Council Chambers, as well as via Zoom. If you wish to give an invocation, you may do so in person or via Zoom. Zoom meeting information is printed within each agenda available on the City’s website at [www.clearlake.ca.us](http://www.clearlake.ca.us) at least 72 hours before each Regular Council Meeting. If you wish to give an invocation in person, the City asks that you adhere to the latest Lake County Public Health COVID-19 guidelines.

This opportunity is voluntary, and you are free to offer the invocation according to the dictates of your own conscience. The City asks that the invocation be offered in a solemn and respectful tone. In order to maintain a spirit of respect and ecumenism, the City Council requests that the invocation opportunity not be used to convert others to the particular faith of the invitational speaker, nor to disparage any faith or belief different than that of the invitational speaker. Furthermore, the invocation shall be directed to the City Council, and not to the audience at the City Council meeting. Please keep the length of the invocation to less than three minutes. Invitational speakers who do not abide by these simple rules of respect and brevity shall be given a warning and/or not invited back to provide a subsequent invocation for a reasonable period of time as determined appropriate by the City.

On behalf of the City Council, I thank you in advance for considering this invitation.

Sincerely,

Daniela Justus  
Administrative Services  
Office Assistant II