

RESOLUTION NO. 25- 067

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

**APPROVING A POLICY REGARDING LEGISLATIVE PRAYER BEFORE MEETINGS OF
THE PUEBLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, legislatures have long maintained a tradition of beginning official proceedings with an opening prayer; and

WHEREAS, legislative prayer has been in existence since before the founding of the American republic dating back to 1774 when the first Continental Congress appointed a chaplain to lead it in prayer; and

WHEREAS, in the *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 572 U.S. 565 (2014), the United States Supreme Court determined that if conducted appropriately prayer before local government meetings “fits within the tradition long followed in Congress and the state legislatures”; and

WHEREAS, the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”) recognizes the value of setting aside time at the beginning of each public meeting for a prayer to solemnize the occasion and unite the Commissioners in their common ends; and

WHEREAS, the BOCC fully supports and upholds the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Colorado which guarantee freedom of religious expression; and

WHEREAS, the BOCC desires to adopt a policy regarding procedures for allowing prayer before public meetings that does not advance and faith or religion or denigrate any others; ensures inclusion of all individuals or groups regardless of their faith or belief or lack thereof; allows attendees to participate or refrain from participating, and to not be treated differently if they choose not to participate.

WHEREAS, the Policy Authorizing Legislative Prayer Before Public Meetings reflects the BOCC’s intent and believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Pueblo to approve the Policy.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pueblo County, Colorado, that the Policy Authorizing Legislative Prayer Before Public Meetings, the terms and conditions of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, is hereby approved and designated County staff is authorized to take all action necessary to effectuate the terms of the Policy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2025 in Pueblo County, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

By: 
Zach Swearingen, Chair

ATTEST:

By: 
Candace Rivera, County Clerk