

## (2) Sample Letters

v 2 For letters to the Council or individual members

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (or) Gentlemen:

I write in opposition to the public prayers, or invocations, that begin the public portion of Castle Rock Town Council meetings. I view Town Council business (and all town functions) as being wholly secular. The invocations by the town's religious leaders give them a religious aspect that makes them seem like church!

And since most pastors, ministers and priests in town are Christian, many beliefs of our diverse residents are not represented. This implies that all beliefs (including non-beliefs) do not have equal standing in the eyes of the town's secular government. This tends to create ranks and orders of citizens: in-groups and out-groups, first class and lower class. And while there are not many in Castle Rock, we should remember that many of the world's religious peoples worship multiple gods, while many others, including Buddhists and Taoists, are non theist.

I hope that members of the Council will come to realize that these invocations are out of place in the public portions of their meetings. I am told that the Council often has dinner together before the public meetings. If prayers are considered important to the councilors, let them be pronounced at dinner, in private, so that there will be no confusion over the secular and democratic nature of the public council meetings.

Let's keep invocations in church and at home where they are guided only by our personal beliefs, not those of others with whom we may disagree.

Respectfully,