



City of Waltham Resolution

Whereas..... *The Preamble to the US Constitution is the first sentence in our Constitution, a terse, fifty-two word sentence that takes twenty seconds to recite, give or take, and sets forth, in a powerful and thoughtful order, the six assignments the people gave their government at the moment of its inception, and*

Whereas..... *The Preamble (set out below) is a forceful and inspirational mission statement for every one of us, citizens all, and for our government, viz.:*

“WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence [*sic*], promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America,” **and**

Whereas..... *All Waltham officials are bound by oath to support the Constitution of the United States, as well as the Massachusetts Constitution, its laws and regulations, as well as the ordinances and rules of The City of Waltham, and*

Whereas..... *All members of the military services, all Senators and Representatives in Congress, Members of the Commonwealth Legislature, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, under Article VI of the United States Constitution, by Oath or Affirmation, to support and defend the Constitution, against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and*

Whereas..... *The President of the United States is bound by oath or affirmation to faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and, to the best of his Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and*

Whereas..... *All official meetings of the Waltham City Council are held within the ambit of said Constitution, and*

Whereas..... *It is of indisputable benefit and in our best interest to increase every citizen’s awareness and understanding of the US Constitution, and*

Whereas..... *That awareness and understanding will be immeasurably enhanced by the public recitation of the Preamble before the start of public sessions, now therefore*

Be It Resolved *That Rule 31 of the Waltham City Council Rules, setting out the council’s order of business at every regular meeting, be amended to prefix, as a new first item, Recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America, and that current items 1 through 10 be renumbered to become items 2 through 11. The President of the Council, shall, at his discretion, lead or appoint a leader or order of leaders, perhaps by council seniority or other order, to initiate the recitation, for the council and members of the public attending, either in unison, or as a prompt-response format. He also may, at his discretion, invite the members of council and the public to stand during the recitation.*

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen B. McMenimen, Councillor At Large

Attest : _____
Rosario C. Malone, CMC
City Clerk

Read & Adopted : _____



City Council Request Form

COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

Requested By: Councillor K. Kiken, Mc Menamin

Date: March 23, 2009

Date Sent: _____

Law Department Case # _____

Committee requesting Council

To: Bill Witt - 8 Common St., 3A - WALTHAM, MA 02451-4426

Please reply by: _____

Request: respectfully, that you attend
the Committee of the Whole meeting
of April 6, 2009 to explain the purpose
of The Preamble Project and the
accompanying resolution requesting the
Waltham City Council recite the Preamble
to the United States Constitution before
each formal meeting.

Request not approved by non vote
forwarded to C/W