

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF SELECTED WORDING IN THE
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Summary Statement:

At the meeting of December 14, 2010, Mayor Pro Tem Stanton suggested that an item be placed on a future agenda for the purpose of discussing the placement of the words "In God We Trust" or "One Nation under God" in the Town Council Chambers.

As of January 19, 2011, approximately 79 California cities display "In God We Trust" in their Chambers including the high desert cities of Adelanto, Barstow, Hesperia and Victorville and also the County of San Bernardino.

This item was previously considered by the Town Council on November 14, 2006. At that time, it was the consensus of that Council to proclaim the wording, "A Better Way of Life" as the official Town Motto and to place those words on the Council dais. A copy of that report along with a list of the cities who display "In God We Trust" is attached for your review. Also attached is a newspaper article regarding recent action taken by the City of Lake Forest to place these words in their Chambers.

This item will be presented by Mayor Pro Tem Stanton and will provide for the opportunity to present suggestions and/or receive input regarding the subject matter.

Recommended Action:

Provide direction to staff.

Proposed by: Mayor Pro Tem Stanton **Item Number** _____

T. M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item** Yes No N/A

Council Meeting Date: 01/25/11

ATTACHMENT - PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 14, 2006

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

MOTTO DISPLAY IN TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Summary Statement:

Two separate mottos have been mentioned by the Council for display; the United States national motto of "In God We Trust", and Apple Valley's motto of "A Better Way of Life".

Currently, "A Better Way of Life" is displayed in white gloss lettering above the Council Chambers entrance doors. As for the national motto display, additional information is provided to assist the Council in this discussion: A volunteer organization, "In God We Trust—America, Inc.", is encouraging each city in the nation to join in displaying our national motto in every city hall in the nation. Attached is literature from "In God We Trust—America, Inc."

Potential locations to display any motto(s) could include the area just below the name plaques on the Council dais; an area left of the Council dais on the wall below the clock; or, above the current Council pictures on the Chambers entrance wall.

It is recommended that displays should be avoided on the rear Chambers wall due to the anticipated installation of murals along this wall, and on the wall behind the Council dais due to its construction design. The current display along the tiled wall, "Town of Apple Valley", was installed during the buildings' original construction when the area behind this wall was easily accessible. A concern is that additional installation of brass lettering, similar in size and weight to the existing display, may compromise the current display and potentially cause damage to the existing tiled façade.

Material costs may range from \$850-\$1200 per motto, dependent upon size, letters and design. For comparison, recent lettering installed above the Civic Center Aquatics Facility cost \$1770 for 25 bronze letters measuring 8 inches high and 1 ½ inches deep. Additional costs relating to any potential demolition to gain access behind the tiled wall have not been included.

Recommended Action:

Provide direction to staff.

Proposed by: Orlando Acevedo, Administrative Assistant **Item Number:** _____

Town Manager Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No
N/A

Council Meeting Date: 01/25/11

CALIFORNIA CITIES THAT HAVE PLACED “IN GOD WE TRUST” IN CITY HALL/CHAMBERS

| <u>Cities</u> | <u>County</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adelanto | San Bernardino |
| Anderson | Shasta |
| Artesia | Los Angeles |
| Arvin | Kern |
| Bakersfield | Kern |
| Barstow | San Bernardino |
| Biggs | Butte |
| Brawley | Imperial |
| Brea | Orange |
| Buena Park | Orange |
| California City | Kern |
| Carson | Los Angeles |
| Chino | San Bernardino |
| Chino Hills | San Bernardino |
| Colfax | Placer |
| Colton | San Bernardino |
| Compton | Los Angeles (South) |
| Costa Mesa | Orange |
| Cypress | Orange |
| Delano | Kern |
| Doris | Siskiyou |
| El Centro | Imperial |
| Fortuna | Humboldt |
| Fountain Valley | Orange |
| Gridley | Butte |
| Hawthorne | Los Angeles |
| Hesperia | San Bernardino |
| Highland | San Bernardino |
| Holtville | Imperial |
| Hughson | Stanislaus |
| Huntington Beach | Orange |
| Imperial | Imperial |
| Imperial | Imperial County Supervisors |
| Irwindale | Los Angeles |
| Kerman | Fresno |
| Lake Forest | Orange County |
| Lancaster | Los Angeles |
| Lathrop | San Joaquin |

Council Meeting Date: 01/25/11

Continued:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lemoore | Kings |
| Lodi | San Joaquin |
| Lompoc | Santa Barbara |
| Los Alamitos | Orange (South) |
| Lynwood | Los Angeles |
| Maricopa | Kern |
| McFarland | Kern |
| Mission Viejo | Orange |
| Norco | Riverside |
| Oakley | Contra Costa |
| Oceanside | San Diego |
| Ontario | San Bernardino |
| Orange Cove | Fresno |
| Paso Robles | San Luis Obispo |
| Plymouth | Amador |
| Porterville | Tulare |
| Rancho Santa Margarita | Orange (South) |
| Reedley | Fresno |
| Ridgecrest | Kern |
| Rio Del | Humboldt |
| San Bernardino County Supervisors | San Bernardino |
| San Clemente | Orange |
| Santa Clarita | Los Angeles |
| Seal Beach | Orange |
| Selma | Fresno |
| Shafter | Kern |
| Shasta Lake | Shasta |
| Soledad | Monterey |
| Sonora | Tuolumne |
| Taft | Kern |
| Tehachapi | Kern |
| Tulare | Tulare |
| Tustin | Orange (South) |
| Victorville | San Bernardino |
| Villa Park | Orange (South) |
| Wasco | Kern |
| Waterford | Stanislaus |
| Weed | Siskiyou |
| Westminster | Orange |
| Yorba Linda | Orange |

Council Meeting Date: 01/25/11

Deciding Lake Forest vote: 'In God We Trust' not about religion

Article

LAKE FOREST – After more than an hour of contentious and passionate debate, Lake Forest on Tuesday became Orange County's 14th city to support placing the national motto "In God We Trust" on the walls of its City Council chambers.

"It is the original motto to become part of our decoration," Councilwoman Marcia Rudolph said. "If we don't follow history we will be doomed to follow our mistakes."

Rudolph and Councilwoman Kathryn McCullough brought the issue to their council colleagues in May, but it was voted down. With the recent election of the council's newest member, Scott Voigts, Rudolph decided to try again – this time hoping Voigts might help with a needed vote.