



League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

January 26, 2010

Dear Mayor DiCianni:

As longtime observers of the Elmhurst City Council meetings, the League of Women Voters are flabbergasted by your suggestion to open council meetings with prayer. Even though it purports to include everyone, this proposal amounts to an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

As mayor, you were elected to serve *all the citizens of the community* and your assertion that “all faiths” would be invited is disingenuous. You have no way of knowing how many Elmhurst residents either attend religious services elsewhere - or not at all - because their beliefs do not correspond to the houses of worship available within our city limits. Religious affiliation is not a requirement for constitutional protection and you are wrong to think that your responsibility to all Elmhurst citizens will be met simply by inviting members of diverse faiths to lead these prayers.

Alderman Diane Gutenkauf was right when she was quoted as saying it is better to keep church and religious issues separate from government issues. We can only hope that you were caught up in the excitement of the moment on January 19th and that you will drop this proposal.

Laura Kratz
President
The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

Cc: Elmhurst City Council
Elmhurst Press
Elmhurst Independent
The Doings