

MILLARD COUNTY, UTAH POLICY
ON
OPENING STATEMENTS IN COUNTY MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Commission is aware of, and sensitive to, the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which clauses preclude compulsion by law of the acceptance of any religious creed or the practice of any form of worship but at the same time said clauses safeguard the free exercise of each and every person's chosen form of belief, or creed, whether secular or non-secular.

WHEREAS, the Commission is aware of, and sensitive to, Sections 1 and 4 of Article I of the Constitution of Utah which basically provide the same rights and protections regarding Establishment and Free Exercise as the mentioned provisions of the Constitution of the United States in addition to providing that no public money or property be appropriated for or to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or for the support of any ecclesiastical establishment.

WHEREAS, the Commission is aware of, and sensitive to, the holdings of the Utah Supreme Court in its two landmark decisions on this subject, namely, the Society of Separationists v. Whitehead and Snyder v. Murray cases.

WHEREAS, The Commission is desirous of providing and protecting the guarantees of each of these cases and Constitutional provisions and at the same time is desirous of creating and setting forth a legal policy allowing opening statements in meetings of the County; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of Utah Code Annotated, Section 17-53-207, the Commission is empowered to make and enforce rules regarding the preservation of order in transacting the business of the County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following shall be the Policy of Millard County, Utah, on opening statements in public meetings conducted by the County:

1. Time Limit. No opening statement offered shall exceed two (2) minutes in duration.
2. Voluntary. Any person offering such opening statement shall do so only as a volunteer. Because of the possibility of embarrassment or the appearance of coercion, no one shall be called upon to offer an opening statement. Arrangements for the offering of an opening statement shall be done so in advance by the Chairperson of the Commission or designee.
3. Religious Preference Forbidden. No preference or favoritism shall be shown or extended to any belief, whether secular or non-secular. Affirmative action shall be taken to extend the right or opportunity to offer an opening statement in county meetings to persons of any and all beliefs, whether secular or non-secular.
4. Disruption and Irreverence Forbidden. Any opening statement offered in

a County meeting shall be non-disruptive, respectful, and done so in a positive manner.

5. Repealer. This Resolution and Policy supersedes and replaces Millard County Resolution No. 02-01-14 which is hereby repealed and made null and void.

Adopted

on 12th day of April, 2004.