

N246252



17 April 2012

Alex Harris
C/- email
Fyi-request-137-f9699ea5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Harris,

Request for information: 11 April 2012

I refer to your request for information contained in your email of 11 April 2012, in which you requested:

1. Does the council open its meetings with a prayer?
2. If yes you'd like a copy of that prayer or examples?
3. When the practice was first established?
4. Whether the council has considered abolishing in the wake of the Whanganui decision?
5. Any advice the council may hold on the prayer's compatibility with both the Human Rights Act 1993 and Bill of rights Act 1990?

Your request for information under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) has been considered and the responses are listed below:

1. Yes
2. The prayers are not retained or recorded. Councillors select/create their prayer to read on the day.
3. The practice was first established 20 November 1989.
4. Council has not considered the Whanganui decision or abolishing this practice.
5. There is no information on this item

If you disagree with Council's response you can pursuant to section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, make a complaint to the Ombudsman who will upon receipt of the complaint investigate and review Council's decisions. Information on how to make a complaint can be found at www.ombudsmen.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Cronin
Democracy & Support Services Manager