

Leelanau Board of Commissioners

Jan. 18, 2022 meeting

It is time to listen and hear.

Your prayer policy is divisive, purposefully exclusionary, and impossible to measure any benefits other than a warm fuzzy feeling.

It has needlessly become a political issue with negative publicity for the County and a continual waste of this boards time debating it each meeting.

The **art of listening** is that period of silence when reflection allows the meaningful words of the public to reach your conscious mind.

The **First Amendment Establishment Clause** granted us all the freedom of religion. The corollary of that is; it granted us the freedom from religion as well.

The late Congressman John Dingell once stated; "elected officials do not have power, they hold power **in trust** for the people who elect them."

You have violated our trust, by putting your personal religious beliefs ahead of the publics interests and needs, particularly when so many people spoke out against the public prayer, including members of the very clergy you want to come and pray.

There is no downside to discontinuing this policy. You still have your moment of silence, to silently ask your God for guidance.

If you pass a motion to discontinue this policy, it will soon disappear from the publics radar, public comments and negative publicity.

Keith Ashley

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