

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Meg Williamson, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Display of National Motto – “In God We Trust”
DATE: July 5, 2006

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider display of the national motto of “In God We Trust” in the City Council Chambers.

- FACTS:
1. In 1956 Congress codified “In God We Trust” as the national motto.
 2. In December 2005, the City Council appointed an ad hoc committee of Council Members Heggarty and Strong to review the feasibility and costs associated with display of the patriotic national motto of “In God We Trust” in the Paso Robles Council Chambers.
 3. The ad hoc committee met several times to review possible options for display of the national motto.
 4. The ad hoc committee recommended that a banner featuring the national motto be placed across the face of the Council dais during Council meetings. The banner would be removed when the Chambers were not being used for City Council meetings.
 5. The design of the banner recommended by the ad hoc committee would include the logos/seals of both the City of Paso Robles and the State of California on either side of the patriotic national motto of “In God We Trust.” (See attached graphic representation).
 6. The banner recommended by the ad hoc committee would be 42 inches long by 26 inches high and would hang directly in front of the Mayor’s set at the dais. The images would be placed on a burgundy background (same color as the dais skirting).
 7. The establishment of a banner during City Council meetings creates a limited public forum.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The ad hoc committee recommended the City Council endorse the patriotic display of the national motto terminology during City Council meetings only. The display would reflect multiple levels of governance (City, State and Federal).

POLICY

REFERENCE: U.S. Code Title 36 – Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations, Subtitle I – Patriotic and National Observances and Ceremonies, Part A – Observances and Ceremonies, Chapter 3 – National Anthem, Motto, Floral Emblem and March, Section 302. National Motto, --“In God We Trust” is the national motto.

FISCAL

IMPACT: Cost quotations were still being obtained at the time of producing this report. The final cost quotations for either silk screening or embroidering the banner will be reported at the City Council meeting.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. For the City Council to adopt Resolution No. 06-XX authorizing display of the patriotic national motto “In God We Trust” as part of a governance banner in the City Council Chambers during City Council meetings only.
 - b. Amend, modify or reject above option.

Attachment:

- 1. Resolution approving display of the national motto during City Council meetings
- 2. Banner Graphic



In God
We Trust



RESOLUTION NO. 06 –

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
APPROVING THE DISPLAY OF THE PATRIOTIC NATIONAL MOTTO “IN GOD
WE TRUST” AS PART OF A GOVERNANCE BANNER IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS DURING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, in 1956 Congress codified “In God We Trust” as the national motto; and

WHEREAS, in December 2005 the City Council appointed an ad hoc committee to review the feasibility and costs associated with the display of the patriotic national motto in the City’s Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, the ad hoc committee recommended that a banner featuring the national motto be placed across the face of the Council dais during City Council meetings and removed when the Chambers were not being used for City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the design of the banner recommended by the ad hoc committee would include the seals of both the City of Paso Robles and the State of California on either side of the patriotic national motto of “In God We Trust”; and

WHEREAS, the banner would reflect multiple levels of governance (City, State and Federal) and would be displayed during City Council meetings only; and

WHEREAS, the multi-governance display would be intended as an action to provide and encourage a spirit of national patriotism within the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles that it authorizes the display of the patriotic national motto “In God We Trust” as part of a governance banner to be displayed in the City Council Chambers at the dais during City Council meetings.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 5th day of July, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Mayor Frank R. Mecham

ATTEST:

Deborah D. Robinson, Deputy City Clerk