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23 April 2012

Alex Harris
Via email
requests@fyi.org.nz

Dear Sir / Madam

OFFICIAL OPENING OF PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thank you for your enquiry about how our Council officially opens its Council meetings.

Meetings of the Porirua City Council's committees do not have any ceremonial opening. These meetings are opened by the Chairperson simply declaring the meeting open.

However the monthly meetings of the Council do have a ceremonial opening. The Councillors each take it in turns to open the Council meeting in a way that they choose. In the past this has included opening by a prayer, by singing of a song, or by reading a meaningful quotation. For example the 4 April 2012 meeting of the Porirua City Council was opened by the Councillor reading a Martin Luther King quotation, in recognition of the 44th anniversary of his assassination. Another meeting was opened by the performing by a Councillor of a song that he would be singing in an upcoming stage show.

On the occasions when the Councillor opening the meeting has said a karakia or prayer of their choosing, we are not able to provide examples as requested. We do not record the wording of the ceremonial opening in our minutes.

The Wanganui District Council decision to cease their tradition of opening their meetings with a prayer has not been discussed by this Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "GS", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Simpson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PCC - #760848-v1