

Special City Council meeting on the Ten Commandments on March 6, 2001

Held in the auditorium

Convened at 7:02 pm

Council present: Gene Kinsey, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Earl Payne, Jack Scott, Jim Spehar, Reford Theobald, Janet Terry

Staff Dan Wilson, John Shaver, Stephanie Nye, Kristin Winn

Mike Gregg, 2824 E ½ Road, Chairman of the Christian Coalition Committee, read statement in favor of keeping the tablet

Benny Lenard, 3105 F ½ Rd, read statement in favor of keeping the tablets (re: Columbine parent quote and poem)

Michael Ervin, 2860 Elm Circle, #12, opposed to secularizing them with other monuments, clearly religious. Anything other will trivialize them. Must grant access for monuments for other religious items. Not 1959 anymore, its 2001. Cannot win under existing law

Richard Puter, 472 Sartee St., quote from Supreme Court, this nation founded on Christian principles, foundation decides whether it endures, USA irrefutably a Christian nation, quote from Woodrow Wilson

Marion Frey, 576 N. 24th, more important things to do but disagree, removing is taking the easy way out, in a society calling for tolerance how touchy we are, deny history and culture, valid reasons and make accommodations

Jim Newhall, 1741 Ridge Dr, Ten Commandments part of my heritage, foundational part of my faith, symbol of my faith, many others in community have other beliefs, propose a process of mediation with a professional mediator, ask those preparing to sue give more time for negotiations

Larry Alley, 559 N. 23rd St, represent the Eagles, gave history, not given as a religious symbol, like to see it stay even if other monuments are needed, if removed please return it to the Eagles and we will display it at our new building

Eileen Robinson, 224 31 5/10 Rd, ACLU infringing on my rights, separation of church and state has nothing to do with symbols or monuments

Gene Kinsey – clarified issue

Gary Cake, 260 26 ¼ Rd, real conflict is not about a slab of stone, lines of demarcation between rural and urban areas, bullies, urge Council to be courage

and take a stand for the history of this nation, add other monuments, create "Freedom Park",

Jim Hale, 3596 G 7/10, Palisade, re: bill of rights park, congress shall make no law....., tablet has not been established as the City's official stance, the tablet has other symbols on it, truly an American monument

Dan Wilkenson, 1240 Grand Ave, Liberty Baptist Church, native of GJ, would respect other religious symbols in other countries, heritage we ought to protect, prejudice leads to fear, if they take it away move it to the Eagles as a monument of intolerance

Ellen Taylor, 1111 Horizon Dr, included the separation of church and state in our bill of rights, powers of the people, suggest the offer of the Methodist church to move the plaque there and include a plaque that says the following.... Win-win solution,

Lenore Raff, 203 Mesa View St, copy of the newspaper from 1959, her parents were Eagles and her mother still survives and remembers how it was placed. A capsule of the donators underneath

Kathryn Christian, 960 White Ave, letter to the paper not published, inaccuracies in the paper, it is unlawful, willing to accommodate any sincere effort to move it but if the decision on March 21 is not to move will go forward with our complaint

Billy James Schafer, 2839 Darla Dr, can't change the Lords laws,

Lavonne Wilson, 3425 Beechwood, grateful constitution protects our rights but the minority need not win every issue,

Steve Ramirez, 548 Coronado, read letters from Sunday school,

John Robbins, 2702 Patterson Rd, pastor of Bookcliff Baptist Church, once you stand up to these folks that try to oppress you the citizens of GJ will stand behind you

Gerry Newman, 2926 Bookcliff Ct, favor of leaving tablet where it is, hope it might have a good influence, if offended can look elsewhere, a citizen wrote to the Sentinel if an offensive statue were offensive the ACLU would defend it as art

Darlene Murphy, 603 33 ¾ Road , ACLU is misinterpreting the law and violating our constitutional rights, Christians discriminated against

Lance Oswald, 196 27 Rd, sports worshipped, analogy, follow the constitutional law of our land, can see the monument if placed across the street

Dennis Finnan, 1754 Bell Ridge Ct., pastor of Calvary Bible Church, petition Council to defend, reasons Ten Commandments should stay,

Wes Steessi, 661 Hwy 50, obey those laws

David A Kessler, 2667 Bahamas Way, look at many things if we are going to look at history, look at other heritages, religious stone has no place on government property,

Robert Smith, 378 Evergreen Rd, served on legislative-judicial committee over just such an issue, a high school girl brought into the school to challenge the use of religious songs, stayed out of court that demonstrated that there are some statements that have some intrinsic secular value, approach was successful, perhaps can be successful here, cannot take seriously the challenge of those who criticize without giving a better replacement, if we turn our society over to these people then build high walls around our possessions,

Patrene Rice, 439 Lorey Dr, constitution is not only clear but the supreme court has given us guidance, as a historical symbol along with other monuments, this is a good solution, encourage Council to go forward with this idea,

Jim Scott, 713 Glenwood, recently moved here, the commandments are facts, blue laws, integrity, one Councilman said what good are principles if you are going to lose, know what's right and don't defend us

Jasson Farmer, 621 Jackson St, native of GJ, nation with a declining set of morals, symbol of this community, want to be a community with morals

Clare Boulauger, 820 Elm Ave, freedom must be tempered with responsibility, must remove the monument, City Hall serves all people, message is whether GJ accepts diversity,

Brenda Wilhelm, 930 Hill Ave, want to see the monument relocated, a stretch to say it is a secular monument, country is supposed to welcome diversity, if a citizens belief differ from the majority makes them feel lesser, new to this community,

Greg Merschel, 1742 DS Rd, create a historical plaza, our people do not know our history, ten commandments are not the center of my beliefs, an empty tomb is the center of my belief, want to preserve the table and add other monuments of our history, ACLU picking on one religion, bill of rights plaza at no expense to the City of Grand Junction

Lorey Burroughs, 433 N. 25th, hopes that it stays

Bradley Hibbard, 22717 Ivory Ct, resident and local attorney, saddened we are having this meeting, it is a constitutional issue, consensus that this is winnable CLJ watching this case very carefully, offered services for free, I'll stand in front of you

Diana Frankland, 829 Ouray Ave, not raised a Christian, ridiculed for being different, uncle was Adalai Stevenson, people like me are threatened,

John Edwards, 2017 Orchard Ave, no issue with Mason's plaque, why? Hitler would be a member of ACLU

Robert Burkholder, 824 E. Cleveland, Fruita, Colo Constitution, government made to benefit the whole, free exercise of religion, separation of church and state is not in the constitution

Gary Lucero, 209 Mantey Heights, pleased so many Christians have come forward, subscribe to old and honorable traditional values, healthy morals and value, Ten Commandments are a moral beacon and a good thing, hold onto good things and pass on to future generations

Levi Lucero, 2335 Mesa Ave, here since 1959, can imagine anyone being offended by the Ten Commandments, proud to show it to friends, fight for it, it is a good thing, move them to the new judicial building if you have to

Mary Taylor, 3602 G Road, president Handy Chapel board of trust, important to us, very important to our Christian heritage, leave them at city hall

Tim Carlson, 601 Rambling Rd, we live by laws of God and by laws of man, laws of God not the laws of all, in this country we respect all minorities, city hall not the right place for the commandments, our country is founded on things that are representative of all people not just some,

Brad DiDonato, 606 Rushmore Dr., no where in constitution of bill of rights is there the phrase of separation of church and state, ACLU has tried to brainwash all citizens, the tablet is not infringing on anyone's rights.

Trent Wuster, 607 E. Columbine Ave, Fruita, father, teacher, husband and Buddhist, tablet should be removed, blessed that we live in a country where we can express our own opinion, not against the principles of the Ten Commandments but that they support a particular religion, don't want state sponsored religion.

Margaret Pearson, 630 Broken Spoke, remove the Ten Commandments from City property, honoring the position of city government, legal issue, protect minority, investigate Christian Coalition if we go to mediate,

Sarah Swedberg, 830 Teller Ave, oppose, in direct conflict with the constitution, history PhD , quoted James Madison,

Dermont Miller, 3505 12th St, the point is whether or not the case is winnable, a case in Indiana, ACLU lost, suppression of our collective freedom of speech, slap in the face, anti-democratic, poorly handed down law,

Gilbert Fuller, 3198 Elm Ave, congress has no authority, what does the Colo Constitution, democratic republic, rule of the majority, minority protected , need to take a stand,

Recess at 9:37 pm

Back at 9:48 pm

Dirk Klein - left

Vern Roark, 328 Acoma Dr., support keeping the tablet on city property and taking it to court if necessary, past pres. of Eagles, if must be moved then move it to the Eagles Lodge

Jill Havens, 830 Teller, clearly against the constitution, many here have affirmed that it is a religious monument, a group of us that want it moved have hired the ACLU, it is a group a citizens, two offers for relocation, what would be different if they are moved, the more people that say it should stay here the more they have made are point, reasons for laws that protect the minority,

Lisa Bense, 428 29 Road, want the tablet to stay, see this as a personal rights issues, my right to look at them, individual right, accepting and living with other individuals

Ashley Rossmann, 3308 S. Highland Dr, Clifton, attend Central High School, representing our youth, in favor of leaving the tablet, this was a gift to the youth, moral examples in the lives of youth,

Debbie Goedde, 13 Bordeaux Ct., leave the Ten Commandments there, gift to this town

Shawn O'Brien, 1926 Elm Ave, recently moved here, not Christian to tell someone to leave, not a threat as a Christian, I am not your enemy, will fight for the basic foundation of what I believe, respect minority but they don't have the right to tell the majority what to do

Martha Scott, 811 White Ave, thanked council for their wise governing, do not believe the commandments should be displayed at city hall, it is offensive, and very arrogant to say those against are not moral,

Brian Bergem, 2110 Zion Rd, not convinced that the location will enhance them or that relocating them will diminish them, support moving them to a place more fitting in a more religious setting,

Ron Powers, 579 Placer St, Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley, pres. of GVIN, but do not represent them, my own opinions, our hope is for a peaceful tolerant discussion, appreciate each speaker's opinion, part of the majority, try to put myself in the position of the minority, if I were not a Christian, the location would offend me, support moving the monument or seeking other monuments, respect all opinions

Ken Jansons, 653 26 Road, high school student, Ten Commandments are a good collection of morals, if people don't agree don't look at it, ACLU shall not steal our morals and values from the communities

Richard Schwan, 1259 Gunnison, a chunk of rock, offensive in the eyes of the beholder, a non-issue, we don't need a lawsuit, a gift to the city, nothing religious about it a monument put up donated by the Eagles to remind us

June Fellhauer, 606 20 Rd, God didn't make religion, man did, seal of Colo has the eye of God

Joseph Marie, 535 1/2 29 Road, moving it to another venue is best decision, would also be a supporter of a bill of rights plaza

Rocky Shrable, 613 Darlene Crt, pres of Ministerial Alliance, sent a statement endorsing a bill of rights plaza, city attorney said must come from a secular point of view, clearly religious, God wrote these laws, law defined, defend these laws or we will have anarchy and chaos, difference between right and wrong, no better place for that law than on city property,

Chad Latt, - left

Neville Woodruff, 1999 Bison Ct, innocent victims of an error made in a less sophisticated time, never should have been accepted by the city, clear church-state violation, two alternatives, transfer it back to the donor or a neighborhood church or construct a secular theme park in a hypocritical way, gave examples of other possible monuments, none of which can be rejected out of hand, more court involvement, none of it council's business

Jim Baughman, 2579 F Road, acknowledge all comments, evident to me that the Ten commandments are both a religious symbol but also a secular symbol, quoted James Madison, battle worth fighting for and can be won, monument plaza makes sense,

Daniel Creek, 3817 F ½ Rd, - left

Faydra Lampshire, 664 20 ½ Rd, - left

Wes Yeager, 747 Teller, quoted founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Patrick Henry, chief justices, unnecessary metaphor of the sep. of church and state

John Antonopoulos, 340 Colorado, referred to Kinsey's statement, council represents the people, country based on Christianity, it is a priority, 1998 a rock outside has the Ten Commandments on it and they have great significance to us, the Bible his an important factor worldwide, the City Council elected a mayor that (read from Corinthians) participated in homosexual activity

Robert Stebbins 28454 North Ave, here since 1950, impressed by seeing the Ten Commandments here, many other religions have similar doctrines so why are they offensive, in God we trust on our money, moving it may not be the solution, in favor of keeping it and taking a stand,

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 pm