

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE AA

When Francis Scott Key penned the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814, the final stanza read, "And this be our motto, 'In God is Our Trust'." In 1954, Congress incorporated the phrase "One nation under God" into the "Pledge of Allegiance," the oath of loyalty to our country and flag. In 1956, at the urging of President Dwight Eisenhower, Congress formally adopted "In God We Trust" as our national motto.

What Key, Congress and President Eisenhower were recognizing in these expressions is simply what is enshrined in our founding document, the Declaration of Independence: "All men are created equal" and we are "endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights." Our founding Fathers recognized that rights come from God, not from government. It is government's responsibility to protect the rights God has provided. Thomas Jefferson confirmed this as he wrote, "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time. Can liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are of God?"

"In God We Trust" is a historical expression of American heritage and conviction. Since our nation as a whole embraces this motto, individual states, counties, cities and towns that adopt "In God We Trust" as a motto are merely confirming the spirit of America. This measure gives Villa Park residents an opportunity for our city to go on record and align ourselves with our heritage by approving the display in our City Council Chambers of the motto that sets America Apart. Voting "Yes" on the City Council's measure to post "In God We Trust" in the Council Chambers is a vote to confirm the true source of our rights and liberties. We urge citizens of Villa Park to vote "Yes" on this measure. Vote "Yes" on our heritage.

s/ Brad Reese
Mayor

s/ Deborah Pauly
Councilwoman