

EGGERS, EGGERS, EGGERS, AND EGGERS, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

P.O. BOX 248

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28607

STACY C. EGGERS, JR.
STACY C. EGGERS, III (1948-1990)
STACY C. EGGERS, IV
KIMBERLY M. EGGERS
AUSTIN F. EGGERS
CHRISTOPHER C. BARNES
JONATHAN D. GREEN

PHONE (828) 264-3601
FAX (828) 262-5229
737 WEST KING STREET

June 21, 2017

Andrew Seidel, Esq.
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Post Office Box 750
Madison, WI 53701
Via US Mail and Email: aseidel@ffrf.org

Re: Use of Space at the Ashe County Sheriff's Office
Ashe County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Seidel:

Terry Buchanan, the sheriff of Ashe County, has asked me to respond on his behalf to your letter of June 19, 2017. It is my hope that this letter will address some of the misconceptions about this event, and clarify that allowing Ms. Lotz to speak in the parking lot of the Ashe County sheriff's office is not an establishment of religion; rather her event is a protected free speech action on her part.

Please be advised that no Ashe County funds have been expended to promote or advertise this event. Similarly, there is no requirement that any county employee attend the event. I would agree with you that the posting of this event on the Sheriff's website could lead to misconceptions, and out of an abundance of caution Sheriff Buchanan has agreed to remove that announcement from his website. Likewise, the use of the sheriff's seal next to the address of the event was simply meant to assist individuals in locating the event.

The sheriff's office parking lot is open to any group which may wish to hold a vigil or meeting at reasonable times and upon scheduling such event. Mr. Buchanan has received several requests from individuals regarding this policy, and he has indicated to them he would provide the space to them upon the same terms and conditions which it is provided to Ms. Lotz.

If the Triangle Freethought Society or your organization wishes to hold such an event in the sheriff's parking lot, we would be happy to accommodate you in that regard. Given the concern regarding posting the event on the Sheriff's website for this event, we would be willing to extend the same courtesy to your group to avoid any appearance of disparate treatment. This space is available to any group, regardless of political, religious, secular, or other belief.

I hope this has helped to resolve some of the confusion which has arisen related to Ms. Lotz 'Time of Prayer' event. Should you have any questions or concerns, or if you wish to arrange a time for your organization to use this space, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

I hope this finds you well, and thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy C. Eggers, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "E".

Stacy C. Eggers, IV

Cc: Terry Buchanan
John Kilby, Esq.