

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

November 6, 2012

SENT VIA MAIL & EMAIL

[Mayor@VillageofAlsip.org](mailto:Mayor@VillageofAlsip.org)

Mayor Patrick Kitching  
Village of Alsip  
4500 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Alsip, IL 60803

Re: Unconstitutional Cross on Water Tower

Dear Mayor Kitching:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to follow up on a letter we sent on December 20, 2011. In that letter we stated that we had been informed that a cross sits on top of the Village of Alsip water tower located near W 119<sup>th</sup> Street each December. I have included a copy of the original letter for your reference. We also contacted you in February but have not received a reply.

Our complainant is concerned that the Village of Alsip is going to continue to violate the Constitution this December by placing a cross on the water tower. The display of an illuminated cross by a municipality as a Christmas decoration was ruled unconstitutional by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in *ACLU v. St. Charles*, 794 F.2d 265 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986). The Alsip cross is not defensible; it is clearly unconstitutional.

We request assurances that the cross will not be displayed this year or in future years. Please seek legal advice and have your attorney contact me at his or her convenience.

Sincerely,



Patrick Elliott  
Staff Attorney

Enclosure