

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

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**KAY STALEY; SCOTT WEITZENHOFFER;  
WILFRED LYON; STACIE GONZALEZ;  
KRISTIN AMES; and FREEDOM FROM RELIGION  
FOUNDATION, INC.,**

**Plaintiffs,**

v.

**Case No: 4: 11-CV-02585**

**TEXAS GOVERNOR RICK PERRY,**

**Defendant.**

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**DECLARATION OF KAY STALEY**

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I, Kay Staley, do hereby declare, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, under penalty of perjury, that the following facts set forth below are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1. I am one of the plaintiffs in the above-captioned matter and I make this Declaration in support of the plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction.
2. I live in Houston, Texas.
3. I am a freethinker and a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc.
4. I am opposed to governmental support, sponsorship and endorsement of religion.
5. I am certainly opposed to Governor Perry's initiation, promotion and sponsorship of the prayer rally scheduled for August 6, 2011, at Reliant Stadium in Houston.
6. I know that Governor Perry has declared August 6, 2011, to be an official Day of Prayer and Fasting, a day on which all citizens are expressly encouraged by the Governor to pray to Jesus Christ; the Governor's message, including his hosting of a Christian prayer rally, has

been widely and publicly made known, including the Christian prayer rally sponsored by the Governor.

7. In addition to the Governor's official proclamation of a day of prayer, in which his prayer rally is specifically promoted, the Governor has been publicly encouraging "praying" citizens to join him at Reliant Stadium on August 6.

8. The prayer rally organized and promoted by Governor Perry at Reliant Stadium is clearly intended for believers of the Christian faith, more particularly, evangelical Protestant Christians.

9. The Governor has publicly stated that "I sincerely hope you will join me in Houston on August 6 and take your place in Reliant Stadium with praying people asking God's forgiveness, wisdom and provision for our state and nation. There is hope for America. It lies in Heaven, and we will find it on our knees."

10. I am deeply offended by the Governor's promotion of a prayer rally because it advances Christianity and it sends a message to me and other non-Christians that because we do not share the Christian faith, we are not full members of the Texas political community.

11. The Governor's prayer rally associates good citizenship and patriotism with Christian belief.

12. As a non-Christian, and as a freethinker, I feel that I am considered a political outsider in the eyes of Governor Perry and that evangelical Christians are political insiders.

13. I feel excluded and demeaned by the Governor's promotion of this Christian prayer rally. Persons who are not believers in the Governor's God are made to feel like second-class citizens.

14. The prayer rally organized and promoted by Governor Perry, in fact, is aligned with the American Family Association, which relationship sends a further message of the

Governor's evangelical preferences. The American Family Association is an overtly evangelical Christian organization that has openly expressed hostility to non-Christians and other discrete groups, including gays and lesbians.

15. Governor Perry has clearly gone beyond any mere acknowledgement of the supposed historical significance of religion by calling upon citizens, including me, to actively engage in prayer, which is an inherently religious activity. The event scheduled for Reliant Stadium, moreover, is patently intended for "praying" citizens, and non-Christians are not welcome to attend this event.

16. By initiating, promoting and sponsoring this prayer rally, Governor Perry sends a message to me that religion is preferred and valued, and non-Christians are made to feel inferior.

17. Governor Perry has initiated, promoted and sponsored an event that is exclusionary of non-believers, a message that is emphasized by the hosting of an event by the Governor at which all non-Christians are unwelcome.

18. I am opposed to the Governor's promotion and endorsement of religion as a function of government. I believe that religion should not be substantively incorporated as an adjunct of government and endorsed by government officials. In my opposition to the Governor's endorsement of religion in this case, moreover, I do plan to express my disapproval in opposition outside Reliant Stadium on August 6.

Dated this 25th day of July, 2011.

/s/ Kay Staley  
Kay Staley

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