

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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March 11, 2014

**SENT BY MAIL AND EMAIL to [ac.roper@birminghamal.gov](mailto:ac.roper@birminghamal.gov)**

A.C. Roper  
Chief, Birmingham Police Department  
320 N. Ripley Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Re: Prayer Force United Open Records Request

Dear Chief Roper:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, our Alabama membership and state chapter. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 36-12-40 (2013), I request copies of the following records for the past four years:

1. Any permits for Prayer Force United events.
2. Any financial records related to the Prayer Force United prayer walks, including, but not limited to budgets, receipts, invoices, purchase orders, or similar documents.
3. Any records relating to Birmingham Police Department resources — such as manpower, overtime, gas, cruisers, officers, etc. — being used at Prayer Force United events or prayer walks.
4. Any other records, including memos, plans, and documents, relating to Prayer Force United or prayer walks.
5. Any and all communications, including emails, letters, and call records, relating to Prayer Force United or prayer walks.
6. Any and all communications, including emails, letters, and call records, to or from Mark Hand.
7. Any records relating to speeches, sermons, or talks, given at any Prayer Force United event. This includes any printed or digital copies of speeches or sermons Chief Roper has delivered.

Please be aware that under Alabama law, “There is a presumption in favor of public disclosure of public writings and records.” *Chambers v. Birmingham News Co.*, 552 So.2d 854, 856 (Ala. 1989). If any part of this request is denied, I request that I be provided with a written statement of the grounds for the denial. If your agency does not maintain these public records, please forward this request to the proper custodian and let me know the name and address of the custodians of these records. If any of these records are available through electronic media, they may be e-mailed to [aseidel@ffrf.org](mailto:aseidel@ffrf.org). If I can provide any clarification that will help expedite your attention to my request, please contact me at 608-256-8900.

Sincerely,



Andrew L. Seidel  
Staff Attorney