

Glenda Wiles

From: Elliott Oppenheim <intellitek@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 11:49 AM
To: Chris A. Hoffman
Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office; pbackus@ravallirepublic.com; Glenda Wiles; medintelnet@aol.com; krystelp@aclumontana.org; editor@bitterrootstar.com; rossfranklin@msn.com; americansunited@au.org; eric.whitney@mtpr.org; info@billofrightsinstitute.org; berrynash@gmail.com; medintelnet@aol.com; btyer@missoulanews.com; kathleen@kathleenformontana.com; Chris A. Hoffman; Bill@PowerReporting.com; Ravalli County Commissioners Office; pbackus@ravallirepublic.com; Glenda Wiles; medintelnet@aol.com; krystelp@aclumontana.org; editor@bitterrootstar.com; rossfranklin@msn.com; americansunited@au.org; eric.whitney@mtpr.org; info@billofrightsinstitute.org; berrynash@gmail.com; medintelnet@aol.com; btyer@missoulanews.com; davidloewenwarter@gmail.com; aclu@aclu.org; RKjelsrud@lithia.com; laurief@harshalom.org
Subject: Re: Request to Display Menorrah in Identical Manner as Christian Displays for Hanukah 2018
Attachments: Freedom Religion.docx; guidelines.pdf; Municipal Policy.docx; Religious Tolerance.docx; religious_displays_december_2013.pdf; Separation of church and state.docx

Rabbi Nash has moved away. I have consulted with our new Rabbi. We make the request as i have asked, and in any event, this is my personal request, for my personal observance, apart from anyone or any entity. Please honor this. I request that you act on this. Please cease "gaming" me. I attach legal authority.

Let's stop this debate. I demand equal rights to display my religious observance in the identical manner to Christian display. This is settled law. Ravalli County must grant this or be in violation of federal law. I do not want to file suit but I will and I am well backed and prepared to do this. Recall what happened with the discussion in the Zoning Board some years ago. The law is simple: equality. I am entitled to receive the application, to be provided any and all application materials you would provide any other person or entity, and to have the Commissioners decide, on the record, its decision.

I will return from my trip to Israel about 10 August. If the County has not granted my permission to display in the exact manner as the Christian displays, I will move ahead. you must cease this invidious religious discrimination. What the County is doing is morally, ethically, and legally wrong. if you feel you have some sort of argument to support your position, I am eager to learn. ...but there is none. "You can display at the Fairgrounds" while Christians display on County buildings is absolutely wrong.

Please pass this on to your County Attorney. The County has a very significant problem.

Sent from [AOL Desktop](#)

Elliott Oppenheim, MD,JD,LLM Health Law

406-273-4212

406-531-0879- cell

Hear me narrate my novel, Kaleidoscope!

Kaleidoscope: the novel, AUDIOBOOK

http://www.audible.com/search/ref=a_mn_mt_ano_tseft_galileo/181-7732626-0833833?advsearchKeywords=kaleidoscope+novel&x=0&y=0

In a message dated 6/11/2018 5:07:54 PM Mountain Standard Time, CAHoffman@rc.mt.gov writes:

Mr. Oppenheim,

My understanding was that Rabbi Nash secured the use of the fairgrounds for that purpose a few months ago.

Perhaps you could speak with him?

Sincerely,

Chris Hoffman
cahoffman@rc.mt.gov

On Jun 8, 2018, at 8:32 AM, Elliott Oppenheim <intellitek@aol.com> wrote:

Please send me an application so I may apply or tell me in what manner or way or procedure I must follow in order to apply. The Joyous Holiday of Hanukah commences 2 December and concludes 10 December 2018.

On the first night, there would be a candle lighting ceremony attended by a gathering of perhaps 100 people. I want to display the electric menorah during these days. The lights would be turned on at dusk each day and shine for 4 hours. No actual "fire" is involved, other than the lighting of a symbolic candle menorah which would burn for a short period. I want to display in the identical locations as where the County permits Christian display.

I am asking in plenty of time and request a timely response. If there are any fees involved, I am personally responsible and I will deposit necessary funds, as required by County ordinance.

Thank you for your attention. May I please have your written response in a timely manner?

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<Hanukah RC 10 December 2017.docx>

Glenda Wiles

From: Chris A. Hoffman
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 2:14 PM
To: 'Elliott Oppenheim'
Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office; pbackus@ravallirepublic.com; Glenda Wiles; medintelnet@aol.com; krystelp@aclumontana.org; editor@bitterrootstar.com; rossfranklin@msn.com; americansunited@au.org; eric.whitney@mtpr.org; info@billofrightsinstitute.org; berrynash@gmail.com; medintelnet@aol.com; btyer@missoulanews.com; kathleen@kathleenformontana.com; Bill@PowerReporting.com; Ravalli County Commissioners Office; pbackus@ravallirepublic.com; Glenda Wiles; medintelnet@aol.com; krystelp@aclumontana.org; editor@bitterrootstar.com; rossfranklin@msn.com; americansunited@au.org; eric.whitney@mtpr.org; info@billofrightsinstitute.org; berrynash@gmail.com; medintelnet@aol.com; btyer@missoulanews.com; davidloewenwarter@gmail.com; aclu@aclu.org; RKjelsrud@lithia.com; laurief@harshalom.org; Howard Recht
Subject: RE: Request to Display Menorrah in Identical Manner as Christian Displays for Hanukah 2018

Mr. Oppenheim,

I am sorry to learn that Rabbi Nash has moved on. I enjoyed getting to know him. Before he departed, though, he secured the front gate of the Ravalli County Fairgrounds for a full day on December 2, 2018. This already appears on the Fairgrounds calendar of events, on the county's web site. If you wish to install an electric menorah through the 10th, I believe you simply need to contact the fairgrounds to discuss those logistics with them.

On a personal note, I know of no "religious" displays being placed on county property, unless you are referring to tree lights. As a Christian of Jewish heritage, I find no religious significance in lighting a tree during the month of December. In fact, I believe that practice has pagan roots, and has become little more than a retail enhancer...Just my two cents...

As has become my practice, I *am* forwarding this to Howard Recht at the Ravalli County Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,

Chris Hoffman
cahoffman@rc.mt.gov
406-531-2652

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