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ALLIANCE DEFENSE FUND LAW CENTER BENJAMIN W. BULL Arizona State Bar No. 009940 JOSHUA W. CARDEN* Arizona State Bar No. 021698

ELIZABETH A. MURRAY*

Arizona State Bar No. 022954

Alliance Defense Fund Law Center

15333 N. Pima Rd., Suite 165

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Phone: (480) 444-0020 Fax: (480) 444-0028

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ROBERT H. TYLER

California State Bar No. 179572 38760 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite B

Murietta, CA 92563

Phone: (909) 461-7860 Fax: (909) 461-9056

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LAW OFFICES OF TERRY L. THOMPSON

TERRY L. THOMPSON

California State Bar No. 199870

P.O. Box 1346

Alamo, CA 94507 15

Phone (925) 855-1507

Fax: (925) 820-6034 16

(designated local counsel)

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA OAKLAND DIVISION

FAITH CENTER CHURCH EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES, a California nonprofit religious corporation, and HATTIE HOPKINS, an individual,

Plaintiffs,

v.

FEDERAL D. GLOVER, member and Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, MARK DESAULNIER, member of the Contra Costa County Board









VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE **RELIEF AND DAMAGES**

* Applications pro hac vice submitted concurrently with this complaint. VERIFIED COMPLAINT - 1

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of Supervisors, JOHN M. GIOIA, member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, MILLIE GREENBERG, member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, GAYLE B. UILKEMA, member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, JOHN SWEETEN, Contra Costa County Administrator, ANNE CAIN, Contra Costa County Librarian, and PATTY CHAN, Senior Branch Librarian for the Antioch branch of the Contra Costa County Public Library, LAURA O'DONAHUE, Administrative Deputy Director for the Antioch branch of the Contra Costa County Public Library, in their individual and official capacities,

Defendants.

Come now the plaintiffs, Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries and Hattie Mae Hopkins (collectively "Faith Center"), by and through counsel, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and against the Defendants aver the following:

I.

INTRODUCTION

1. This case is about the Defendants' refusal to allow a religious group to use a public library meeting room for religious purposes. By written policy, Defendants have excluded the Plaintiffs solely because of their religious viewpoint and the religious content of their speech. This is a flagrant violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Plaintiffs seek declaratory relief, injunctive relief, nominal damages, costs and attorneys' fees.

II.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This action arises under the United States Constitution, particularly the First and Fourteenth Amendments; and under federal law, particularly 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, 2202 and 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988.

- 3. This Court has original jurisdiction over these federal claims by operation of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.
- 4. This Court has authority to issue the requested declaratory relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2201.
- 5. This Court has authority to issue the requested injunctive relief under 28 U.S.C. § 1343(3).
- 6. This Court is authorized to award the requested damages under 28 U.S.C. § 1343(3).
 - 7. This Court is authorized to award attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988.
- 8. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 in the Northern District of California because this claim arose there, and most of the parties reside within the District.

III.

INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

9. Pursuant to L.R. 3-2(c)-(d) & 3-5, this case is a civil rights case, in a non-excepted category, suitable for assignment to the San Francisco or Oakland divisions because the civil action arose in Contra Costa County.

IV.

IDENTIFICATION OF PLAINTIFFS

- 10. Plaintiff Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries, a.k.a. Faith Center Evangelistic Ministries, is a non-profit religious corporation in the State of California and may sue and be sued in its own name.
- 11. Plaintiff Hattie Mae Hopkins is the leader and registered agent of Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries and a resident of Sacramento, California.

V.

IDENTIFICATION OF DEFENDANTS

12. Defendant Federal D. Glover is a member and the chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, maintaining an office in Pittsburg, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for establishing general policies and plans for the operation VERIFIED COMPLAINT - 3

of Contra Costa County government, including the county library system. This Defendant is sued in his official and individual capacities.

- 13. Defendant Mark DeSaulnier is a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, maintaining an office in Concord, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for establishing general policies and plans for the operation of Contra Costa County government, including the county library system. This Defendant is sued in his official and individual capacities.
- 14. Defendant John M. Gioia is a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, maintaining an office in El Cerrito, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for establishing general policies and plans for the operation of Contra Costa County government, including the county library system. This Defendant is sued in his official and individual capacities.
- 15. Defendant Millie Greenberg is a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, maintaining an office in Danville, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for establishing general policies and plans for the operation of Contra Costa County government, including the county library system. This Defendant is sued in her official and individual capacities.
- 16. Defendant Gayle B. Uilkema is a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, maintaining an office in Lafayette, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for establishing general policies and plans for the operation of Contra Costa County government, including the county library system. This Defendant is sued in her official and individual capacities.
- 17. Defendant John Sweeten is the Contra Costa County Administrator, maintaining an office in Martinez, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for implementing Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors policies, including those governing the county library system. This Defendant is sued in his official and individual capacities.
- 18. Defendant Anne Cain is the Contra Costa County Librarian, maintaining an office in Pleasant Hill, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for overseeing all Verified Complaint 4

county libraries and enforcement of Contra Costa County policies governing the county library system. This Defendant is sued in her official and individual capacities.

- 19. Defendant Patty Chan is the Senior Branch Librarian of the Antioch Branch of the Contra Costa County Public Library system, maintaining an office in Antioch, California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for implementing Contra Costa Board of Supervisors policies governing the country library system, particularly the Antioch Branch. She is also responsible for overseeing the use of library facilities by outside groups and individuals like the Plaintiffs. This Defendant is sued in her official and individual capacities.
- 20. Upon information and belief, based upon telephone conferences with Ms. Hopkins, Defendant Laura O'Donahue is the Administrative Deputy Director of the Antioch Branch of the Contra Costa Public Library system, maintaining an office in Antioch California. Among other things, this Defendant is responsible for implementing Contra Costa Board of Supervisors policies governing the country library system, particularly the Antioch Branch. She is also responsible for overseeing the use of library facilities by outside groups and individuals like the plaintiffs. This Defendant is sued in her official and individual capacities.

VI.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Background

- 21. Plaintiff Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries ("Faith Center") is led by Plaintiff Hattie Mae Hopkins.
- 22. Ms. Hopkins believes that, as a Christian, she is called to share her faith with others.
- 23. Ms. Hopkins believes that there are many individuals who need to hear about the gospel of Jesus Christ, but may never set foot inside a church building.
- 24. Ms. Hopkins holds organized meetings under the auspices of Faith Center, that, pursuant to the foregoing beliefs, are not held inside a traditional church building.
- Faith Center currently holds meetings in Sacramento, California and Woodland,
 California.

- 26. Participants at Faith Center's meetings:
 - a. discuss educational, cultural, and community issues from a religious perspective;
 - b. engage in religious speech and religious worship; and
 - c. engage in discussing the Bible and other religious books, teaching, praying, singing, sharing testimonies, sharing meals, and discussing social and political issues.
- 27. Early in 2004, after praying about it, Ms. Hopkins believed that God was leading her to begin holding Faith Center meetings in Antioch, California.

Antioch Library

- 28. The Contra Costa County Library has a branch in Antioch, California.
- 29. The Antioch Branch of the Library ("Library") has a meeting room that is available for use by outside individuals and organizations.
- 30. This meeting room is located on the Library premises and is available during Library business hours on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 31. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors encourages the use of library meeting rooms for educational, cultural and community related meetings, programs, and activities.
- 32. Upon information and belief, based on written Library policies, Defendants allow a variety of nonprofit organizations to use library meeting rooms.
- 33. Non-profit and civic organizations may use the meeting rooms free of charge for meetings open to the general public.
- 34. An individual or organization seeking to reserve the meeting room need only submit to the Library a completed application that discloses the name of the individual or organization, the date and time requested, and the activity taking place.
- 35. If the room is not otherwise scheduled for the requested date and time, the application is to be approved, assuming that the requested time is within regular business hours.

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Plaintiffs' applications

- 36. In May 2004, Faith Center participant and Area Coordinator Mary Ward obtained an application to use the Antioch Library meeting room.
 - 37. Mary Ward is a resident of Antioch, California.
 - 38. Mary Ward faxed the application to Ms. Hopkins in Sacramento, California.
- 39. Ms. Hopkins filled out and signed the application, requesting the meeting room for two dates: May 29, 2004, and July 31, 2004.
- 40. Library personnel informed Ms. Hopkins that she needed to fill out a separate application for each date requested.
- 41. Ms. Hopkins complied by faxing two applications to the Library one for May 29, 2004, and the other for July 31, 2004. True and correct copies of these applications are attached as Exhibits A & B.
- 42. Ms. Hopkins then telephoned the Library in May 2004 and spoke to two separate Library employees to confirm that Faith Center's dates were on the Library calendar.
- 43. Both Library employees confirmed that the dates were on the official Library calendar.
- 44. During one of these confirmation conversations, Ms. Hopkins asked if the room was soundproof.
- 45. The Library employee said no, and expressed concern that noise from high school students in the area would bother Faith Center's meeting.
- 46. Ms. Hopkins replied that the noise would not be a bother to Faith Center's meeting.
- 47. Ms. Hopkins asked if the sound from Faith Center's meeting would be a bother to Library patrons.
 - 48. The Library employee said no.

May 29, 2004 Meeting

49. On May 29, 2004, Ms. Hopkins, Ms. Ward, and approximately 12-15 persons intending to participate in the planned Faith Center meeting arrived at the Library.

- 50. The meeting took place as planned and as described in Paragraphs 26.
- 51. Out of consideration for the library's patrons, the meeting participants did not use musical instruments or amplified sound.
- 52. Toward the end of the meeting, Library employees "Jenna" and "Lisa" informed Ms. Hopkins and Ms. Ward that groups were not permitted to use Library meeting rooms for religious activities.
- 53. Ms. Hopkins asked if the reason for the prohibition was because of any excessive noise resulting from the Faith Center meeting.
- 54. The employees said that there was no noise problem with Faith Center the problem was that Faith Center was conducting religious activities.
- 55. The employees showed Ms. Hopkins a written policy entitled "Resolution 92/793" Contra Costa County Library Policy for Use of Meeting Rooms in Libraries" ("policy"), which forbade religious groups to use Library facilities. A true and correct copy of that policy is attached as Exhibit C.
- 56. The policy states that "[1]ibrary meeting rooms shall not be used for religious purposes." See Ex. C.
- 57. The employees further stated to Ms. Hopkins that they didn't have a copy of her application.
 - 58. Ms. Hopkins promptly presented a copy of her application.
- 59. The employees responded that the group should have never gained access and that the Library volunteer who had admitted the group was not fully familiar with Library policies.
- 60. Ms. Ward stated that a librarian had given permission for the group to use the room after finding out the group had the room reserved.
 - 61. Ms. Hopkins expressed her concerns that such a policy might be unconstitutional.
- 62. The Library employees informed her that her July 31, 2004 reservation would be removed from the calendar, which would prohibit Faith Center from assembling in the library meeting room on that date.

- 63. Ms. Hopkins recommended that the Library employees consult with legal counsel because Faith Center's permit for July 31, 2004, had already been granted back in May.
- 64. The employees then stated that they would keep the July 31, 2004 meeting on the calendar, but that they would need to ask a Library manager about that reservation and have the manager call Ms. Hopkins.
 - 65. In early June 2004, Defendant Laura O'Donahue telephoned Ms. Hopkins.
- 66. Ms. O'Donahue stated that Faith Center needed to find another location for the July 31, 2004 meeting because she had already removed the date from the Library calendar.
- 67. Ms. O'Donahue further stated that their policy was a long-standing policy, approved by Library directors and the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors.
- 68. Ms. Hopkins recommended that Ms. O'Donahue check with legal counsel because such a policy was unconstitutional and noted that she had made the same recommendation to Jenna and Lisa.
- 69. Ms. O'Donahue reiterated that Faith Center could not use the Library meeting room.
- 70. Later in June 2004, Ms. Hopkins contacted legal counsel who prepared a letter with legal analysis and authorities for Ms. Hopkins to send to Ms. O'Donahue.
- 71. On July 5, 2004, Ms. Hopkins forwarded counsel's letter along with one of her own, asking Ms. O'Donahue to please expedite a response from Library legal counsel. A true and correct copy of Ms. Hopkins' letter is attached as Exhibit D.
 - 72. Ms. Hopkins received no response from the Library to her letter.
- 73. Ms. Hopkins called Ms. O'Donahue on or about July 23, 2004, to find out if Faith Center's reservation would be reinstated on the Library calendar.
- 74. Ms. O'Donahue stated that she had asked legal counsel to take a general look at the Library facilities use policies, but that "it might take quite some time" to hear back from counsel.
- 75. Ms. O'Donahue stated that Faith Center would definitely not be allowed to use the Antioch Library meeting room for their July 31, 2004 meeting.

- 76. Ms. Hopkins requested to speak to someone in authority, but Ms. Donahue said no one was available at that time.
- 77. On or about July 24, 2004, Administrative Operations Officer Susan Caldwell telephoned Ms. Hopkins and admitted that they had forwarded Ms. Hopkins' letter to their legal counsel on or about July 24, 2004.
- 78. Ms. Caldwell added that Faith Center would definitely not be allowed to use the room for their July 31, 2004 meeting.
- Ms. Hopkins desires to reserve the meeting room for future Faith Center 79. meetings.
- 80. Ms. Hopkins desires to hold those meetings approximately one Saturday every other month, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 81. Ms. Hopkins cannot hold those meetings in the Antioch Library meeting room under the current policy.

VII.

STATEMENTS OF LAW

- 82. Each and all of the acts alleged herein were done by Defendants under the color and pretense of state law, statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs, usages, and policies of Contra Costa County and the State of California.
- Plaintiffs' speech, association, religious worship and religious expression are fully 83. protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 84. Granting religious groups equal access to government facilities under neutral criteria does not violate the Establishment Clause.
- 85. Unless and until the enforcement of the Defendants' religiously discriminatory policy is enjoined, the Plaintiffs will suffer and continue to suffer irreparable harm to their federal constitutional rights.

VIII.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION - VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

- 86. The allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 87. Religious speech and worship are protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.
- 88. The Defendants created a designated public forum by allowing individuals and organizations to reserve the Library facilities for a wide variety of free speech activities.
- 89. Within a designated public forum, express discrimination against religious speech is presumptively unconstitutional.
- 90. Within a designated public forum, the government may not discriminate on the basis of the content of the speaker's speech absent a compelling governmental interest.
- 91. Regardless of the type of forum (traditional, designated or limited, or nonpublic fora), the government may not discriminate based upon the viewpoint expressed by the speaker.
- 92. The Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs because of the religious speech and religious viewpoint that would be expressed at Plaintiffs' meetings.
- 93. The Defendants have no compelling government interest to justify their discriminatory treatment of the Plaintiffs.
- 94. The Defendants' actions therefore violate the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as incorporated and applied to the states under the Fourteenth Amendment.
- WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that the Court grant the relief set forth hereinafter in the prayer for relief.

SECOND	CAUSE	OF A	CTION - V	VIOLA	ATION ()F THE	RIGHT TO	FREE	EXERCISE
	OF REI	JGIO	N UNDER	THE	UNITEI) STATE	ES CONSTI	TUTIO	N

- 95. The allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 96. The Plaintiffs' desire to meet for worship and fellowship with others outside of a traditional church building is motivated by their sincerely held religious beliefs.
- 97. Plaintiffs sought to, and continue to seek to, discuss educational, cultural, and community issues from a religious perspective.
- 98. The Defendants' policy expressly excludes "religious purposes" from the Library meeting rooms.
- 99. The Defendants' policy expressly bars access to public facilities based upon the religious or non-religious nature of the applicant and the applicant's speech.
- 100. Defendants' policy substantially burdens Plaintiffs' sincerely-held religious beliefs.
- 101. The Defendants have no compelling reason that would justify discrimination based upon the Plaintiffs' religious expression and nature.
- 102. The Defendants' policy therefore violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as incorporated and applied to the states under the Fourteenth Amendment.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that the Court grant the relief set forth hereinafter in the prayer for relief.

X.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION - VIOLATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

103. The allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.

- 104. The Defendants' policy expressly prohibits "religious purposes" for exclusion from Library facilities.
- 105. The Defendants' policy requires that government officials scrutinize private speech and determine whether private speech or a private purpose is "religious," thus impermissibly entangling government with religion.
 - 106. The Defendants' policy demonstrates impermissible hostility towards religion.
- 107. Defendants have no compelling interest that would justify their hostility towards religion.
- 108. The Defendants' policy therefore violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as incorporated and applied to the states under the Fourteenth Amendment.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that the Court grant the relief set forth hereinafter in the prayer for relief.

XI.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION - VIOLATION OF THE EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

- 109. The allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.
- 110. The Equal Protection Clause requires that the government treat similarly-situated persons equally.
- 111. The Defendants allowed similarly-situated organizations to use the Library facilities and engage in a wide variety of speech and expression in the reserved facilities.
- 112. Based on their policy excluding "religious purposes," Defendants have refused to allow Plaintiffs the same access to Library facilities.
 - 113. Defendants have no compelling interest to justify their exclusion of the Plaintiffs.
- 114. The Defendants' policy therefore violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that the Court grant the relief set forth hereinafter in the prayer for relief.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request the following relief:

- A. That this Court preserve the relative position of the parties by preliminarily enjoining the Defendants from ceasing their practice of allowing use of the Library meeting rooms by nonprofit organizations;
- B. That this Court preliminarily and permanently enjoin the Defendants from enforcing their policy that expressly discriminates on the basis of religion;
- C. That this Court enter declaratory judgment stating that the Defendants' policy is facially unconstitutional and violates the Plaintiffs' rights as guaranteed under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution;
- D. If the policy is not declared facially unconstitutional, that this Court enter a declaratory judgment stating that the policy is unconstitutional as applied to the Plaintiffs and violates the Plaintiffs' rights guaranteed under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution;
- E. That this Court award Plaintiffs nominal damages arising from the acts of the Defendants as an important vindication of the constitutional rights at stake;
- F. That this Court award Plaintiffs their costs and expenses of this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and other applicable law;
- G. That this Court grant such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable, just, and proper;
- H. That this Court adjudge, decree and declare the rights and other legal relations of the parties to the subject matter here in controversy, in order that such declarations shall have the force and effect of final judgment; and
- I. That this Court retain jurisdiction of this matter as necessary to enforce the Court's orders.

Respectfully submitted on this, the 30th day of July, 2004,

Attorneys for Plaintiffs,

By:

Terry L. Thompson

FRCP 7.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Corporate Disclosure Statement is filed on behalf of Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries in compliance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1.

Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries is a California non-profit religious corporation; it has no parent corporation and has not issued, nor will it issue, publicly held stock. Thus, no other corporation holds any stock in Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries.

A supplemental disclosure statement will be filed upon any change in the information provided herein.

Respectfully submitted on this, the 30th day of July, 2004.

Terry L. Thompson

VERIFICATION

I, Hattie Mae Hopkins, am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California. I am the registered agent for Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries and authorized to speak for that organization. I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Damages and declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2004.





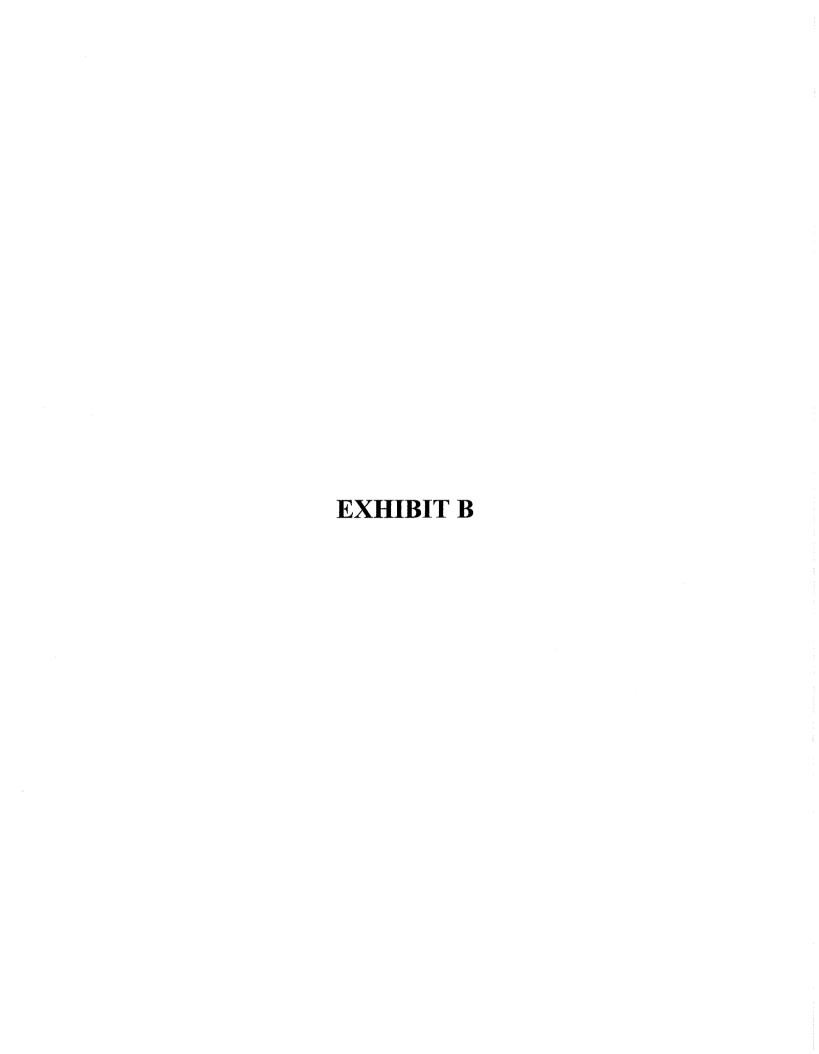
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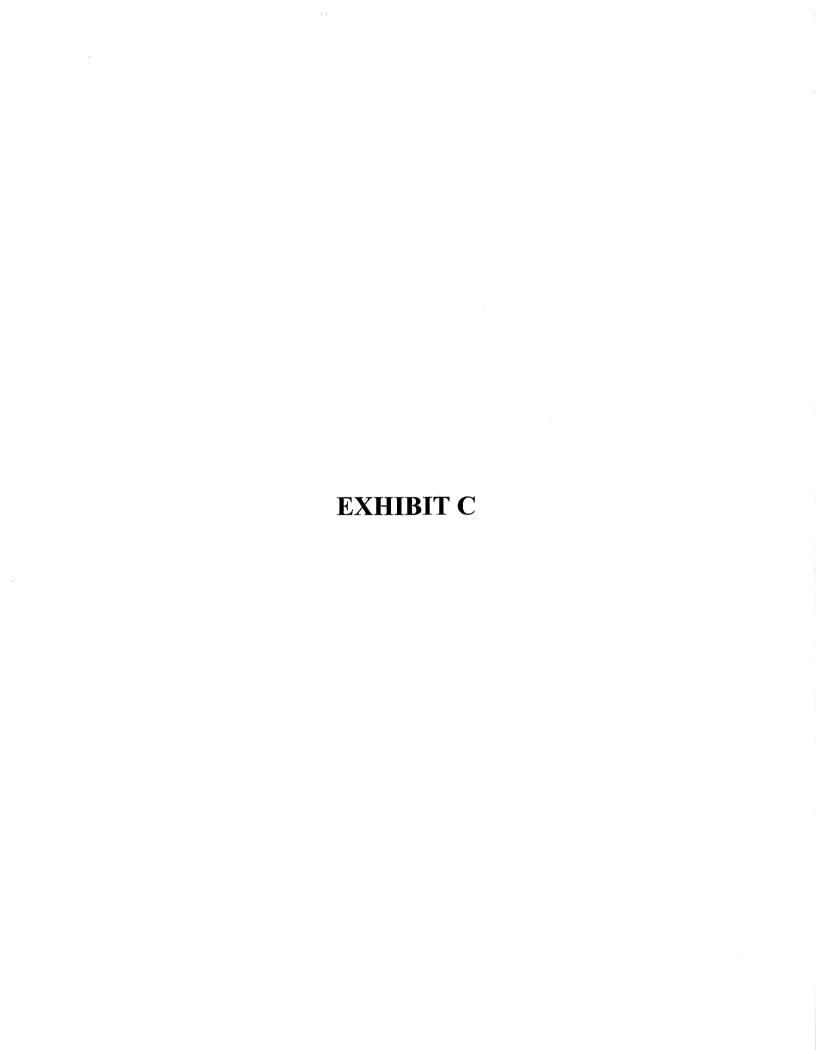
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THE DATES RESERVED WERE ATTN: OUR COORDINATOR,	MAY 29 Th 2004, AND	ALSO JULY 31st :
ATTN: OUR COORDINATOR,	MARY WARD, ANTIOCA	CAY FOR 11:00 AM
LIBRAINTAN FOR THESE EVENTS, ON	Contra Costa County Library	YOUR CALENDAR
	AND PERMIT FOR USE OF I	

\mathcal{L}	Name of Library Antioch
	Date of Meeting MAY 29 2004
	Time of Meeting: From 11:00 To 3:00 Total time 4/24/Rs
	Name of Applicant Poster Hottie Hopkins
	Name of Organization Fr. 74, Ctm ministries W. m. E.C. Gallanski
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	Purpose of Meeting PRAYER, PRAISE AND WORSHIP OPEN TO PUBLIC, PURPOSE TO TEACH AND ENCOURAGE SALVATION THRU JESUS CHRIST AND BUILD UP
	CHANGE CHEVILLON THRU CESUS CHRIST AND BUILD UP
	I have read and agree to abide by and uphold all rules and policies of the Contra Costa County Library and the branch
	iteraty governing the use of library premises of equipment and I understand that failure to do so will assure to
	inture privileges in the use of infrary meeting fooms. I understand that there is a no refund policy on the few based.
	of meeting rooms. PAStor
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	l agree that FAITH CFR, EVg. Min. H. Hopkinishall defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless Contra (nume of person)
	Costa County and its officers and employees from any and all claims, costs, and liability for any damages, sickness,
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	MIN, (name of person)
	or litigation arising through the sole negligence or sole willful misconduct of Contra Costa County or its officers or
	employees AITH CIR. E-Mid. H. Hopkin Sill reimburse Contra Costa County for any expenditures, including (name of persoh)
	reasonable attorneys' fees, Contra Costa County may make by reason of the matter than the
	macinity canny, and it requested by Contra Costa County, will defend any claims of literation to which it
	indennification provision applies at the sole cost and expense of FAITH OR. E-MIN. HATTIE HOPKINS
	(name of person)
	Signature Date MAY 5, 2004
<u>.</u>	Position in organization Pastok
9.	> Home address 5260 49TH St. SADAMENT Phone (916) 454 3450
	Business address 801 BROADWAY, JACRAMEND Phone (916) 454-3450
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-- For Library Use Only --



OPERATIONS

07/28/2004 22:40

BUILDINGUSE

Meeting Room Use Issued: November, 1992 Revised: March 2000

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Adopted this Order on November 17. 1992 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Powers, Fahden, Schroder, Torlakson, McPeak
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
RESOLUTION NO. 92/ 793

SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING A POLICY FOR THE USE OF MEETING ROOMS IN LIBRARIES

Upon recommendation of the County Librarian, this Board adopts the following policy and rescinds all previously adopted policies and rules and regulations (including Resolution No 76/322 in its entirety) for the use of meeting rooms in fibraries:

Contra Costa County Library POLICY FOR USE OF MEETING HOOMS IN LIBRARIES

It is the policy of the Contra Costa County Library to encourage the use of library meeting rooms for educational, cultural and community related meetings, programs, and activities.

NO-FEE USAGE

Non-profit and divic organizations, for-profit organizations, schools and governmental organizations offering meetings, programs, or adivities of educational, cultural or community interest may use the meeting room free of charge for meetings that are open to the general public, for which no admission fee is charged, and at which no soliciting or selling is done.

FEE-BASED USAGE

Non-profit and civic organizations, for-profit organizations, schools and governmental organizations may use the meeting room for a fee for meetings that are closed to the general public, for which an admission fee is charged, or at which soliciting or selling takes place.

EDUCATIONAL USE

Library meeting rooms are available to schools only for special meetings, programs, or activities. They may not be used for instructional purposes as a regular part of the curriculum.

RELIGIOUS USE

Library meeting rooms shall not be used for religious purposes.

APPLICATION FOR USE

All groups requesting use of a library meeting room must fully complete an application form for each use.

RULES FOR USE

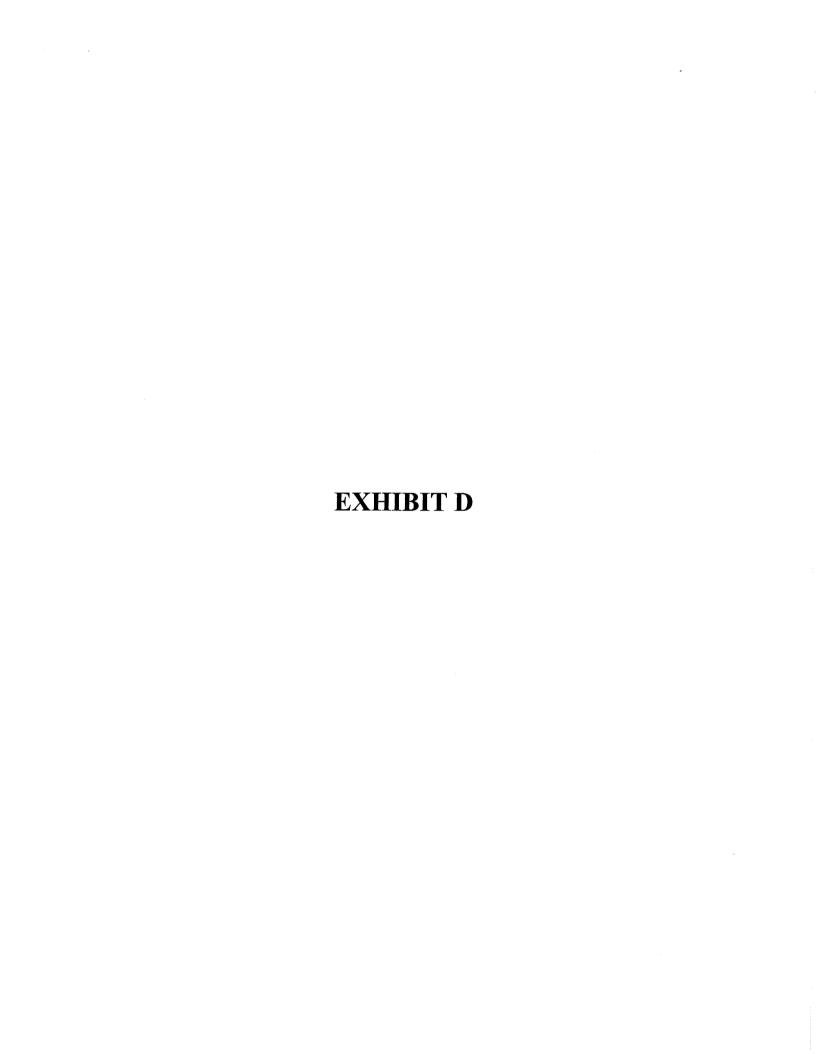
The County Librarian shall promulgate Rules for the implementation of this Policy. Such Rules may contain branch specific rules. The County Librarian may deny application or revoke permission previously granted when such application or permission is for a use not permitted by this Policy, when the applicant has violated the Rules promulgated by the County Librarian, or when the meeting room is needed for library purposes.

CC:

County Library County Administrator County Auditor RESOLUTION NO. 92/ 793.

C. Mattheus . com

Contra Costa County Library Policy and Procedure Manual



July 5, 2004

Mrs. Laura O'Donuhue, Director Antioch Library 501 W. 18th St., Antioch, Ca., 94509

Re: Faith Center Evg. Ministries

Dear Mrs. O'Donuhue:

As per our most recent phone conversation of July 2, 2004 regarding the use of your library room to conduct Church related services, please review The attached facsimile transmission, from Attorney Barbara Weller, of Gibbs Law Firm of Florida, outlining our Legal Rights to use the Facility as a Religious Organization, the same as any other Organization, without any discrimination.

Initially, on May 29, 2004, we had our first Church Fellowship meeting there at your Library, as had been previously requested by us several weeks prior when we submitted our applications. At that time a request was submitted for the use of the Facility also for July 31, 2004.

The meetings were scheduled between II:00 am - 3:00 pm; Both applications were accepted and scheduled accordingly by your Staff, without any mentioning of your current Policy, that Religious Groups cannot use the Facility for Services, or any Activities, whatsoever. The first time I was informed of such a Policy, was at the end of our Service, May 29th, when two members of your Staff called me into the Kitchen Area to explain. I asked our Antioch Area Coordinator, Sis. Ward, to join us. I told them the Law, and asked them to seek Legal Counsel.

Prior to July 2, 2004, when you and I first talked, I suggested the same thing; you indicated the Policy has been around for years, and your Board, and other Officials, and not likely to change it, but I hope that this information will shed some light on this issue, and I pray that expediency is given unto this matter. I announced the planned meeting for July 31st 2004, right after we submitted our applications. I thank you very much for your kindness. Your quick response is appreciated. My Ph. (916) 454-3450.

(SIGNED) January (SIGNED) Dr. Hattie Hopkins, Pastor