

Religious Leaders Against Subsidized Discrimination

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Michael A. Nutter
Mayor, City of Philadelphia
City Hall, Room 215
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3290

Dear Mayor Nutter,

We, as religious leaders, urge you and City Council to uphold the important values of religious freedom and non-discrimination against the unreasonable proposal to sell public property, at a fraction of its fair market value, to a private organization that discriminates.

As religious leaders, we are absolutely committed to the equality of all human beings. We challenge those who discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or religious belief to consider the essential holiness of every human being.

The sale of a public building to an organization that denies the essential worth of every individual disenfranchises those of us who work towards equality for all.

The liberty of citizens will be preserved when the city guarantees that no public dollars will be used to dehumanize anyone because of their sexual or religious identity.

We ask you to reject the sweetheart sale of public property to the Boy Scouts, while they continue to discriminate against gay youth and adults, as well as atheists and agnostics.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Rebecca Alpert

Louis Altman, President, M. Bonnie Cousens, Executive Director, Rabbi Miriam Jerris,
Society for Humanistic Judaism

Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow, First United Methodist Church of Germantown

Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Philadelphia University

Rev. Rodger C. Broadley, Rector, The Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany

Rabbi Judith Gary Brown, VMD, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Rev. Michael W. Caine, Covenant Pastor, Old First Reformed United Church of Christ

Rabbi Fredi Cooper, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

The Rev. E. Clifford Cutler, Rector, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale, Consultant for Body Justice and Sexuality Ministries

Rev. Alfred T. Day, Pastor, Historic St. George's United Methodist Church

Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, PhD, Worship Specialist, Congregational Consulting Group, Union for Reform Judaism

Rev. Jean Erb, Minister, United Church of Christ

Rabbi Sue Frank

Brian D. Gralnick, President, Jewish Social Policy Action Network

Rabbi Erin Hirsh, Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Senior Rabbi, Mishkan Shalom

Rev. Robin M. Hynicka, Arch Street United Methodist Church

Ursula R. Johnson, Chairperson, Calvary United Methodist Church Council

Rev. JH Jordan-Pickett, Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia

Rev. Stephen A. Keiser, Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion

Richard Kiniry, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Dr. Richard Y. Kirk, co-chair, Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum, Congregation String of Pearls

Rabbi Myriam Klotz, Director of Yoga and Lay Programs, Institute for Jewish Spirituality

Rabbi Isabel de Koninck

Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Associate Professor and Director of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Rabbi Alan LaPayover, Former Associate Rabbi, Congregation Beth Am Israel

The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin, Rector, St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia

Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann, Pastor, Christ Ascension Lutheran Church

Rabbi Nathan Martin

(V. Rev.) Fr. Joseph Augustine Menna, AIHM, Pastor, St. Mary of Grace Independent Catholic Parish

Rabbi Goldie Milgram, Executive Vice-President, P'nai Yachadut-Reclaiming Judaism

Isaac Miller, retired pastor, Church of the Advocate, North Philly

Nancy E. Muth, The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Bishop Newkirk, Harold O Davis Memorial Baptist Church(UCC), Higher Ground Christian Fellowship Int.,Inc. Bishop Kermit L. Newkirk Jr. Chief Apostle/Presiding Prelate

Rev. John Pritchard, Pastor, Calvary United Methodist Church

Rev. Cheryl Pynch, Summit Presbyterian Church

Bishop Dwayne D. Royster, Pastor, Living Water United Church of Christ, President, Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (Phila. Chap)

Rabbi Susan Schein, Congregation Kol Emet

Rev. Herbert J. Snyder, Co-Chair of the Reconciling Movement , Eastern PA Conference, United Methodist Church

Rabbi Jacob Staub, Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Spirituality, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Rabbi Steve Stroiman, Barrack Hebrew Academy (retired)

Rabbi Robert Tabak

Rabbi David Teutsch, Director, Center for Jewish Ethics, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Rev. Nathan C. Walker, Minister, First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

Rev. Jay A. Wiesner, Pastor, University Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

Rabbi Avi Winokur, Society Hill Synagogue

Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Director of Congregational Services, Outreach and Tikkun Olam
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Affiliations for purposes of identification

For further information, please contact

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