



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

September 3, 2009

VIA U.S. MAIL & FAX
(901) 576-6796

Harold B. Collins
Chairman
Memphis City Council
125 N Main St Rm 514
Memphis TN 38103

Re: Public Records Request - Chaplain of the Day

Dear Mr. Collins:

Our national organization, which works to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, was recently notified by a local Memphis resident and taxpayer that the Memphis City Council has a "Chaplain of the Day" program.

It is our information and understanding that the "chaplain of the day" receives from the Memphis City Council a certificate recognizing him/her as the "Chaplain of the Day" and a gift bag. This certificate is signed by the Council Chairman and is presented by different Council members each meeting. It is not entirely clear what this "goody bag" contains, but upon reviewing Council meetings, it appears the bags include cuff links.

Therefore, pursuant to Tennessee's Public Records Act, I hereby request a copy of the following:

- 1) A copy of the city code, ordinance, policy or procedure, or any other similar documents, that outlines the process by which a "Chaplain of the Day" is selected.
- 2) A copy of the certificate given to chosen "Chaplains of the Day."
- 3) Any information relating to the contents of the "gift bags" given to the chaplains, including but not limited to, any purchase orders, invoices, receipts, or other financial records for the purchase of cuff links or any other item given to chaplains.
- 4) A copy of any documents listing the names, titles, and denominations of all Chaplains of the Day from 2008 and 2009.

I request a response within fourteen business days. If you choose to deny this request, please respond with a written explanation of the denial including any references to statutory exemptions or other case law upon which you rely.

If your agency does not maintain these public records, please let me know the proper custodians of these records. Please provide their names and addresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. S. Kratz', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Rebecca S. Kratz
Staff Attorney