

January 27, 2006

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VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Hon. Rod R. Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Open Records Request / Pledge to Restore Pilgrim Baptist Church

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

We write on behalf of our client, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation"), and its Illinois members concerning your recent pledge of \$1,000,000 of Illinois state money to help restore the Pilgrim Baptist Church after a fire destroyed much of the church on January 6, 2006. The Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization, based in Madison, Wisconsin, with over 6,000 members, whose primary purpose is to protect the fundamental constitutional principle of separation of church and state. The Foundation and its members are concerned that the use of Illinois state money to rebuild a church may violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

So that we may better understand the implications of your pledge, we request the following records, pursuant to the Illinois Open Records Act, 5 ILCS § 140/1-140/11:

1. All records defining and/or describing the capital project grant fund, including the criteria for eligibility to receive grants from the fund;
2. All records concerning your recent pledge of Illinois state money to help restore the Pilgrim Baptist Church;
3. All records identifying restrictions, if any, on the Pilgrim Baptist Church's use of the Illinois state money that you have pledged;

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4. All correspondence originating from or addressed to your office concerning your pledge of Illinois state money to help restore the Pilgrim Baptist Church; and,
5. All records concerning whether the use of Illinois state funds to help restore the Pilgrim Baptist Church would violate the Establishment Clause.

As you know, pursuant to 5 ILCS § 140/3(c), you have seven working days to respond to this request. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

LA FOLLETTE GODFREY & KAHN



James A. Friedman

JAF:jls

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