



James R. Fouts - Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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April 15, 2014

Mr. Douglas Marshall
27750 Roan Drive
Warren, MI 48093

Dear Mr. Marshall:

The City of Warren through the Downtown Development Authority has received your request to use space in the atrium. It is my understanding that you are affiliated with Freedom from Religion, a group that has objected to the Nativity Scene, the Prayer Station in the atrium and the Annual Day of Prayer in front of city hall.

All of these events are allowed because of the right to freedom of religion constitutional amendment. We cannot and will not restrict this right for any religion to use the atrium, as long as the activity is open to all religions.

Freedom from Religion is not a religion. It has no tenets, no place of worship and no congregation.

To my way of thinking, your group is strictly an anti-religion group intending to deprive all organized religions of their constitutional freedoms or at least discourage the practice of religion. The City of Warren cannot allow this.

Also, I believe it is your group's intention to disrupt those who participate in the Prayer Station which would also be a violation of the freedom of religion amendment.

For these reasons, I cannot approve of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James R. Fouts".

James R. Fouts
Mayor of Warren