

To the Honorable Mark W. Myers, Mayor of the City of Greenwood:

8-19-24  
Council

Dear Sir,

My name is David Hewitt. I and James "Kip" Farrar serve as pastors of Aletheia Church (aletheiachurchindy.com) on Madison Avenue on the south side of Indianapolis, just north of Stop 11 Road.

On Saturday, June 1st, I and a couple of men who were working with our church drove to the south side of Woodmen Park intending to preach the Gospel into the Greenwood Pride event. We had done this last year here (and also in Indianapolis over multiple years), and were desirous of communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who were celebrating what God calls a terrible sin, telling them the way out of it through Jesus Christ.

We had set up our loudspeaker equipment as well as some signs just outside the south entrance to the park in the small area of land between the park property and the subdivision property. I turned them on, played a short song, briefly introduced myself, and explained why we were there. All of this took about five minutes.

I was about to start preaching from 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 when two uniformed officers approached me, one dressed in a green/yellow uniform (obviously the one in charge) and another officer dressed in the more traditional police blues. We had actually met the senior officer the year before at the same event.

— He told us that we needed to turn off our amplifiers if we didn't have a permit for them (which we did not). I asked what would happen if we did not, and he replied that we would be cited first and then arrested. He asked if I had any questions; I told him that I did not at the time.

I and the other two men with me talked with a few people going in, passing out some Gospel literature as well. We remained for a couple of hours but did not continue using the sound equipment.

After our confrontation with the police officers, I consulted the Greenwood City Code regarding "Noise Regulations." I found information under Section 6-277 in the "Nuisances Prohibited" document/code that deals with this particular issue. However, I did notice a couple of discrepancies between the code and what I was told, one with how the lead officer informed me of what I needed to have in order to use my amplification equipment, and another with regard to the consequences for continuing to use it.

First, the ordinance under 4c indicates that it is technically a "waiver" and not a "permit" I would need to have in order to use my equipment. This is just a matter of semantics, but the other issue is a bit more important.

Second, as I said above, the senior officer threatened me with arrest. Section 12e of this part of the City Code specifies the "Penalties" for using sound equipment without the aforementioned "waiver." Offenses are dealt with by way of citation (the first offense on a calendar day being \$50). Multiple offenses increase the fine (which is not surprising), but nowhere in this section of the Code does arrest appear as a consequence or penalty. So, it would seem I was threatened with arrest when arrest is not even permitted for violating the noise ordinance.

Setting aside the threat of arrest for the moment, there is something else about the City Code in question I wanted to mention here. At the very top of the document titled "Nuisances

Prohibited,” we have a list of prohibited items and activities. The *very first sentence* states, in part, “The Municipal Code prohibits the doing of an act, of the omission of a duty, or the suffering or permitting of a condition that . . . offends decency . . .”

The event in Woodmen Park that day was a celebration of sodomy and lesbianism, sexual perversions that God calls an abomination in Scripture in Leviticus, as well as condemning it in other areas, directly and indirectly (Genesis 20, 1 Timothy 1, 1 Corinthians 6, Jude 1, and Matthew 19 to name a few). It is the *height* of “indecentcy” and yet the city of Greenwood not only allowed such an event to take place, but your police force effectively shielded people from the preaching of the Gospel, both of which ought not have happened [1].

Mayor Myers, Kip and I (as well as our church and those who work with us) have every desire to be law-abiding citizens in your city. We do not seek conflict with your fine city, but we will not run away from conflict either. If this event happens in Greenwood again next year, we will be there with our equipment to preach the Gospel. As an effort to avoid conflict with your police force (and to demonstrate we wish to be law-abiding), we will apply for the required waivers beforehand (per your Code, though arguably, we do not need them [2]).

Lastly, Mr. Mayor, we wanted to inform you that we plan to attend a city council meeting in the near future and present much of the content of this letter during the time for public comment. We will not be disruptive, but the council as well as you should know what happened on June 1st.

Thank you for your time, sir.

If you wish to contact us, you can do so through the church website or can call us at the church number, my number, or use the email addresses.

Sincerely,  
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1. Psalm 2:10-12 ESV Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
  2. <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/334/558/>