



CITY OF **OVIEDO** FLORIDA
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OVIEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

JUL 1 1 2016

July 5, 2016

Andrew L. Seidel
Staff Attorney
Freedom from Religion Foundation
P.O. Box 750
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Dear Mr. Seidel:

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 16, 2016 regarding the invocation and location of the Oviedo Police Department's Annual Awards Ceremony and Career Track Recognition.

In your letter you mention the First Amendment and the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. The First Amendment provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. I can assure you neither the Oviedo Police Department nor the City of Oviedo have in the past or have any intention of establishing of any religion. Also in this regard, no attending individual is required to engage in any prayer they do not want to participate.

Our Annual Awards Ceremony and Career Track Recognition was not held in a church. Yes, the event was held at the Reformed Theological Seminary complex, but in a multi-purpose room and not a religious sanctuary.

Finally, as a practicing member of the Jewish faith, I was not offended by the invocation, nor did I receive any complaints from any attendees.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Chudnow
Chief of Police
Oviedo Police Department