

MENORAH PULLED FROM COOP LOBBY

[Bill Donohue](#)

On December 12, we were contacted by a Catholic League member who sought to have a nativity scene displayed in the lobby of his cooperative building in Larchmont, New York, a town in Westchester.

The lobby has a Christmas tree and a menorah. His request was denied. When he was told that the nativity scene was a religious symbol and could not be displayed, he pointed out that the menorah was also a religious symbol. He was told they didn't see it that way.

That same day, I wrote a letter to the Property Manager, sending a copy to the president of the board of directors and a Catholic League attorney. The letter was sent priority mail, UPS, and was delivered by 10:00 a.m. on December 13. To read it click [here](#).

They were given until December 17 to answer, and we heard from their lawyers today. The board of directors of the Coop decided to pull the Christmas tree and the menorah from the lobby, thus making the charge of religious discrimination moot.

There are three ways they could have ruled on this issue: allow the nativity scene; pull the menorah; or keep the menorah and prohibit the nativity scene. The first two options are declarations of neutrality, treating the Christian and the Jewish symbols equally. The latter would have triggered a lawsuit.

I hasten to add that the two neutral decisions are not morally equal. To allow both religious symbols would be an expression

of tolerance. To deny both is an expression of intolerance. They chose the intolerant route.

They would rather deny Jews their rights before extending equal rights to Christians. Telling.