



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

June 4, 2026

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Irene Kao
St. Paul Attorney
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
400 City Hall
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear City Attorney Kao:

You said the reason why you dropped all charges against the church invaders of Cities Church is because there was no violence. As I will point out, that does not empty your obligations. By contrast, federal indictments have been brought against 39 of the invaders. They have been charged with “acts of oppression, intimidation, threats, interference, and physical obstruction.”

These acts are not only in violation of the FACE Act, they are in violation of Sec. 609.28 of the Minnesota Statutes. Subdivision 1 addresses “Interference,” which is defined as “threats” that “intentionally prevents another person performing any lawful act” regarding religious expression. Subdivision 2, “Physical Interference Prohibited,” speaks to any person who “intentionally and physically obstructs any individual’s access to or egress from a religious establishment.”

On January 18, the pastor at Cities Church was forced to terminate services because of the church invaders. One of the defendants screamed, “This ain’t God’s house. This is the house of the devil.” He got into the face of a mother and her two young children, bringing the kids to tears. He taunted them, “Do you know your parents are Nazis? They’re going to burn in hell.” Others blocked attendees from leaving the church.

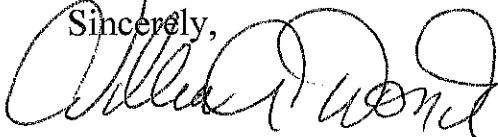
I could go on, but you get the point. The First Amendment protects the right to “peaceably assemble.” This was manifestly not an exercise of this right—it was an abuse of it. Indeed, it was bullying.

If someone organized a group of protesters to take over your office, would you find that acceptable? There would be no violence—just in-your-face invective and intimidation. If this were to happen, you wouldn't have a leg to stand on, morally or legally.

I hasten to add that your workplace does not merit the special protections afforded a house of worship. But that wouldn't stop you from screaming to high heaven if protesters invaded your space.

You are a disgrace to your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William A. Donohue". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.
President