From:	Greg Lauer
To:	kniechatlarge; dencc - City Council; Espinoza, Rafael G. - City Council; Flynn, Kevin J. - City Council; Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3; Black, Kendra A. - City Council; Kashmann, Paul J. - City Council; Clark, Jolon M. - City Council; Herndon, Christopher J. - City Council District 8; Brooks, Albus - City Council District 9; New, Wayne C. - City Council; Gilmore, Stacie M. - City Council
Subject:	Chic-Fil-A at DIA
Date:	Monday, August 31, 2015 1:43:05 PM

Hello,
I'm willing to bet you don't know me, but as a fellow elected official in the great state of Colorado, I feel it is absolutely essential that I contact you about this.

Recently, I've been reading more and more that you're considering not renewing the business license for Chic-Fil-A to do business at DIA, based on their active opposition to same-sex marriage.

I can only assume the oath of office you take is similar to mine, in which I took an oath to support and defend the United States Constitution as well as state law and municipal codes. And it is precisely because of that oath that I am writing to you today.

The first of the original 10 amendments to the Constitution guaranteed the freedom of speech from government intrusion. Sure, over the years, numerous Supreme Court rulings have set reasonable limits to the freedom to prevent mass hysteria situations. But, the Court has almost always upheld our rights, as citizens (and this includes owners of privately held businesses), to express our opinions.

Most importantly, this First Amendment freedom protects our right to hold and express an opinion that is unpopular or might make people angry or even – God forbid – hurt their feelings.

In the past, elected officials were courageous enough to allow people and businesses to hold unpopular opinions and let the marketplace decide whether or not to "punish" those opinions. Now, however, it seems as if you are considering using the full force of your governmental authority to punish Chic-Fil-A for the company ownership's adherence to their Christian principles.

So, either you are considering denying the license because you are too biased to allow for, and even support, unpopular opinions. Even though the very founding of this nation and state were based on allowing unpopular ideas to see the light of day. Or, you are too cowardly to take the stand that even unpopular ideas have a place in a free nation and free state. Has the Denver City Council decided to fully support the idea AND implementation of Thought Police? After that, the question would remain: Who else would you punish for not thinking like you do?

I ask you, as one elected official to another, to reconsider such a hazardous course of action as denying the Chic-Fil-A license. In the name of freedom, and justice, I ask you to allow Chic-Fil-A to continue doing business at DIA and let the marketplace decide the issue once and for all. (Or…are you afraid the marketplace will support the business?)

On the other hand, assuming you also took an oath to support and defend the US Constitution, if you choose to deny the Chic-Fil-A business license, I believe you should resign your office immediately because you will have violated your oath and nullified your own authority.

Thank you for your time and attention, which I know are valuable.

Gregory Lauer
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