

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P. O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

July 20, 2011

The Honorable Wes Perry  
City of Midland  
300 N Loraine  
Midland, TX 79701

Re: Rock the Desert/Open Records Request

Dear Mayor Perry:

I am writing on behalf of a concerned Midland resident and taxpayer, and other Texas members of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), who object to the distribution of taxpayer funds to the Rock the Desert event. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with over 16,600 members across the country including over 700 in Texas. Our purpose is to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church.

It is our information and understanding that Rock the Desert is a private organization whose mission statement is "to reach today's generation through contemporary Christian music and recreation so that they may hear the life changing Message of Jesus Christ." We understand this event will take place August 4-6, 2011. It is our further understanding that the City of Midland has contributed \$50,000 to this event.

Therefore, pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, I hereby request a copy of the following:

- 1) A copy of the contract, agreement or permit between the City of Midland and the Rock the Desert organization.
- 2) Any copies of relevant receipts or payment histories verifying payment by the City of Midland to the Rock the Desert organization.
- 3) Any resolution, ordinance or city grant authorizing city funds (in the amount of \$50,000) to fund the Rock the Desert event.
- 4) Any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone memos, etc.) sent or received by the City of Midland pertaining to the Rock the Desert event.

I request these copies within ten days of your receipt of it and without delay. If your agency does not maintain these public records, please let me know the proper

custodians of these records. Please provide their names and addresses. If you choose to deny this request, please respond with a written explanation of the denial including any references to applicable statutory exemptions upon which you rely.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or clarifications.

Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Schmitt  
Staff Attorney