

# Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia

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## **Press Release**

### **For Immediate Publication**

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The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) recently announced that it is not going to petition the U. S. Supreme Court to hear the case of Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia, et al. v. Chester County, et al.

The Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia (FSGP) thanks the ACLU for all its help in the case. The ACLU partnered with FSGP because it agreed that each and every American has the right to be free of government-sponsored proselytism.

Even though this case will not be going any farther at this time, FSGP contends that religious liberty can flourish only if the government leaves religion alone. The Constitution's establishment clause does, after all, require the separation of church and state.

FSGP will watch the situation closely, keeping in mind that new circumstances and further Chester County government endorsements of religion could reopen the case, as could the U. S. Supreme Court's by making a final decision regarding Ten Commandments displays.

When community demographics begin to reflect the wide and varied religious and non-religious beliefs of minorities, then and only then will citizens see the error of the Ten Commandments display. FSGP is confident that future generations will look upon the plaque with disapproval when it is realized that a majority's belief system was favored over government neutrality.

Because every lawsuit and religious controversy is an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of church/state separation, there are no regrets for taking the case to its disappointing end.

FSGP may have lost legally but did not lose the philosophical battle. Many concerned citizens are outraged that government officials will now be able to display a distinctively Protestant religious text. Thanks to a large amount of media attention, this case enabled passionate and like-minded individuals to find each other. The non-theist community is growing stronger and more vocal, and will resist majority infringement upon the civil rights of the minority.

FSGP members will continue to stand proudly as defenders of church/state separation with the firm belief that a secular government ought not to promote private religious views. As a watchdog organization, FSGP will never abandon its goals of protecting the minority from the majority and demanding that the government remain neutral in matters of religion.

The watchdog is off the porch, bigger, stronger, and more determined than ever!

Margaret Downey

Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia

Spokesperson, President, and Founder

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