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By Email and Fed-Ex

Architect of the Capitol: J. Brett Blanton
Address: SB-15 U.S. Capitol
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-228-1793
Email: communications@aoc.gov

Dear Mr. Blanton:

I am writing on behalf of my clients Brandi Swindell, Rev. Patrick Mahoney, Purple Sash Revolution and the Christian Defense Coalition. On October 28-29, they applied to the Capitol Police for a permit to hold a prayer gathering for 75 and 100 people on the grounds of the United States Capitol. Here is the response my clients received from the Capitol Police:

“Therefore, the U.S. Capitol Police will be unable to process your application as filed with a listed seventy-five (75) to one hundred fifty (150) participants. At the time the application was submitted in person to the Special Events Section, you were advised that such activities are prohibited by the U.S. Capitol Police Board Order 20.12, placing restrictions on mass gatherings on U.S. Capitol Grounds.”

The denial of the application was based on Capitol Police Board Order 20.12, Declaration of Emergency which states:

- o Declares that restrictions on gatherings on United States Capitol Grounds (including demonstration activity and special events) to provide for the safety and security of Congress (its Members, employees, visitors, and facilities) be extended beginning July 20, 2020 pursuant to 2 U.S.C § 1961 and 2 U.S.C. § 1969 until one of the following occurs:

The current restriction of gatherings on the United States Capitol grounds is limited to 25.

Although we have serious legal concerns about these restrictions, it is critical they be enforced equitably for ALL individuals and groups until they are fully resolved. In other words, ALL events on the Capitol grounds must be held to same crowd size restrictions.

This would include the Presidential Inauguration of Mr. Trump or Mr. Biden at the United States Capitol on January 20, 2021. After my clients were denied permission to have over 50 at their prayer event at the Capitol, it would be clearly unconstitutional and discriminatory for the Presidential Inauguration to exceed the crowd limitations set by Capitol Police Board Order 20.12, Declaration of Emergency.

The beauty of America is that all are treated equally regarding the application of justice and the law. It doesn't matter if one is the President of the United States or a lone individual from a marginalized community. "Equal Justice Under Law," must be the cornerstone of our nation.

Therefore, we are looking for the answer to this simple question. Will the Presidential Inauguration at the United States Capitol be held to the same crowd restrictions that every group and event at the Capitol is currently being held to? Today, that number, as you know, is 25.

I look forward to your prompt reply so we can move forward with our response. May God bless you and may God bless America.

Sincerely;



BRIAN R. CHAVEZ-OCHOA