



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 12, 2018

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MARY MARGARET OLIVER
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 82
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State Property Officer Steve Stancil -- *By Email steve.stancil@spo.ga.gov*

1 Martin Luther King Drive

Re: Georgia Building Authority Rule Re: Use of Liberty Plaza

Dear Steve:

Since our recent correspondence regarding the Liberty Plaza permit and unfortunate sound system issue impacting the Moms Demand Action event, I have received additional complaints about process issues to use state properties. Most serious to me, however, is the current permit application status to reserve Liberty Plaza for the March for Our Lives, a national effort, and Georgia Alliance for Social Justice, to march and gather on March 24, 2018.

Georgia Building Authority Exhibit Event Guidelines Section 2, Rule 2.5(4.) states:

Requests for an event to be held in Liberty Plaza after normal business hours as provided in Paragraph 2 of this section 2.5 will not be approved unless such event is: a. being held or hosted by a constitutional officer of the State of Georgia... As chair of the GBA, the Governor retains the discretion to determine whether or not the above referenced conditions...are met.

My legal opinion is that the Rule is an unconstitutional infringement of First Amendment freedoms. But as importantly to me, as a Georgia State Representative and member of the House Appropriations Committee, I remember clearly the discussions about funding and opening Liberty Plaza to citizens as a place to gather, demonstrate, and convey their views to us in the Capitol. Issues of structure, convenience, and safe access all led to creation of the Plaza, and your web site features a lovely picture of the Plaza and comments on its use and success. To deny permits of citizens who are doing exactly what we wanted them to do, to come to their Capitol and offer their views, is bad management.

I request that you grant the permit to the citizens seeking to gather at Liberty Plaza on March 24th, and revise your current Rule that I assert is unconstitutional. Without your positive action, the state will again face unnecessary litigation and costs. As a lawyer of several decades, litigation is always expensive, time consuming, and stressful, and should be avoided whenever possible.

Thank you.

Cordially,

MARY MARGARET OLIVER

cc: Attorney General Chris Carr *By Email ccarr@law.ga.gov*