



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC  
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103  
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX  
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

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August 18, 2010

**BY FACSIMILE (435.835.2202)**

City Council (c/o the City Library)  
City of Manti  
50 South Main, Suite 1  
Manti, Utah

**Re: Proposed Sale of Public Property to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (“LDS Church”)**

Dear City Council:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah Foundation, Inc. (“ACLU of Utah”) has been advised that the City of Manti is considering vacating and selling to the LDS Church a portion of public property described as “100 East Street from the north side of 400 North Street, north to the intersection of 100 East Street and U.S. Highway 89 (approximately 500 North).” We are further advised that this property has historically been designated a public thoroughfare and public forum, in which all people have had the opportunity and right to share their views and opinions on issues of public concern.

Although very little information is available on-line relating to the proposed sale, we have grave concerns about the effect any such sale would have on the First Amendment rights of citizens of the State of Utah and the City of Manti. Those concerns are echoed and amplified by the five (5) complaints we have received in just the last few hours objecting both to the sale and to the non-public manner in which prior discussions about the proposed sale have apparently been conducted.

According to an agenda that was posted within the last two (2) days on the City’s website, the Council intends to discuss and potentially decide issues relating to the proposed sale at tonight’s meeting. We strongly urge you to table discussion and decisions regarding the proposed sale until these significant First Amendment issues have been thoroughly considered.

As you may be aware, the ACLU of Utah has litigated these issues in the past. We are happy to meet with you at any time to discuss the important First Amendment rights at stake, as well as any other concerns that you or your constituents may have relating to the proposed sale.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 801.521.9862, extension 108. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Darcy M. Goddard  
Legal Director\*  
ACLU of Utah

\* Admitted in New York and Colorado; Utah admission pending.

cc: Mayor Natasha Madsen