



*Hon. Adam Robinson, Chairman*  
*Hon. Chris Cleveland, Vice-Chairman*  
*Hon. William Delay, Deputy Chairman*  
*Hon. Percy Coleman, Deputy Chairman*  
*Hon. Jason Cordova, Deputy Chairman*  
*Hon. Cheryl Bailey, Secretary*  
*Hon. Emil Coccoaro, Treasurer*

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Lisa Madigan  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
Civil Rights Bureau  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

Attorney General Lisa Madigan:

As citizens we urge you to use the authority granted to your office by 775 ILCS 5/10-104, the Illinois Human Rights Statute, to investigate an act of religious discrimination and to enforce the Human Rights of the People of Illinois.

1. 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) states the purpose of the Illinois Human Rights Statute:

To secure for all individuals within Illinois the freedom from discrimination against any individual because of his or her race, color, **religion**, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, or unfavorable discharge from military service in **connection with** employment, **real estate transactions**, access to financial credit, and the availability of public accommodations [emphasis added]

2. 775 ILCS 5/10-104(A) grants the Illinois Attorney General authority to investigate and standing to bring suit against those who commit civil rights violations as defined by the Illinois Human Rights Act.

3. 775 ILCS 5/3-102(F) makes it a Civil Rights Violation for any person in any way involved in a real estate transaction to:

Print, circulate, post, mail, **publish or cause to be so published a written or oral statement**, advertisement or sign, or to use a form of application for a real estate transaction, or to make a record or inquiry in connection with a prospective real estate transaction, **which expresses any limitation founded upon, or indicates, directly or indirectly, an intent to engage in unlawful discrimination** [emphasis added].

4. On July 26, 2012, Chicago 1st Ward Alderman, Proco "Joe" Moreno published an Op Ed in the Chicago Tribune in which he stated that he would deny a zoning request for a real estate transaction entered into by a Chicago resident seeking to open a Chick-fil-A franchise because the President of Chick-fil-A made statements affirming religious beliefs of which Alderman Moreno disapproves.

In Alderman Moreno's Op Ed, he claims Chick-fil-A President, Dan Cathy was asked about the company's fervent support of the traditional family. "Well, guilty as charged," he said. "We are very much

supportive of the family — the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that."

Alderman Moreno further states unequivocally: "There are consequences for one's actions, statements and beliefs. Because of this man's ignorance, I will deny Chick-fil-A a permit to open a restaurant in my ward."

5. Alderman Moreno further makes clear that his discriminatory behavior is not based on any actual policy of Chick-fil-A. Alderman Moreno claims that his religious discrimination is in retaliation for discriminatory policies of Chick-fil-A, however he has not cited nor even alleged any behavior, policy or action of Chick-fil-A, any franchisee, employee or agent thereof that violates in law of Illinois, Cook County or Chicago.

In his Op Ed, Alderman Moreno admits to actual knowledge that Chick-fil-A does not engage in discrimination:

I've been in discussions with the company for the past nine months. Every time we met, I brought up my concerns that the company supported a homophobic agenda... I was repeatedly told by company officials that "we (Chick-fil-A) are not political" and that the company "had no political agenda".

6. Alderman Moreno's unequivocal published statement that he will deny a zoning request based solely on the religious beliefs of Chick-fil-A's President, absent any reasonable determination that those religious beliefs will violate zoning or any other applicable law, constitute a clear Civil Rights Violation under 775 ILCS 5/3-102(F). We urge you to initiate an investigation and bring charges against Alderman Moreno.

Respectfully,

Adam Robinson  
Chairman, Chicago Republican Party