

November 17, 2011

Via email: dbrown@bisd.us
Via fax: 956.548.8010

Public Information Office
Attn: Ms. Drue Brown, Public Information Administrator:
Brownsville Independent School District
1900 Price Road, Suite 101
Brownsville, Texas 78521

RE: Open Records Request/ Brownsville ISD Religious Attire Policy

Dear Ms. Drue:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Tex. Gov't Code § 552.001, *et seq.*, I write to request the following information¹ maintained by the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) and/or its officers, employees, agents, and any other entity or individual under its control:

1. All information that concerns, discusses, or addresses the policies, procedures and/or practices of BISD schools regarding students' right to freely exercise their religious faith, including their right to wear religious attire or articles of faith, including but not limited to emails, board meeting minutes, and policies as proposed or promulgated;
2. All information that concerns, discusses, or addresses Rivera High School's recent announcement of a policy prohibiting students from wearing rosaries or crosses to school, including but not limited to any complaints regarding the policy; all information regarding compliance with the policy; and all information

¹ The term "information" as used in this Open Records Request encompasses all records or communications in written or electronic form, including but not limited to correspondence, documents, data, videotapes, audio tapes, photographs, microfiches, microfilms, charts, DVDs, CDs, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, logs, files, guidance, guidelines, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules training manuals, other manuals, and studies.

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AUSTIN, TX 78711-2905
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considered by BISD and Rivera High School in developing, adopting, and implementing this policy.

I request that, to the extent possible, this information be provided electronically.

I request that you provide this information promptly. If some of the information I have requested can be collected sooner than other requested information, please produce the information to me in stages as it is collected and let me know which requests have been satisfied and when further responsive materials will be provided. Please make your production as follows: by email to lgraybill@aclutx.org by fax to (512) 478-7300 x116, or by mail to P.O. Box 12905, Austin, TX 78711.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about these requests so that we can work together to resolve any issues with your production. My telephone number is ((512) 478-7300 x 116.

Pursuant to section 552.267(a) of the Texas Public Information Act, I request that you waive any fees associated with this request. That section of the statute reads:

A governmental body shall provide a copy of public information without charge or at a reduced charge if the governmental body determines that waiver or reduction of the charge is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information primarily benefits the general public.

This request merits such an exemption because:

1. The ACLU Foundation of Texas is a non-profit organization exclusively organized to promote the public interest, as stated in our articles of incorporation filed with the Texas Secretary of State. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the ACLU Foundation of Texas as a non-profit, public interest research organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code; and
2. The ACLU Foundation of Texas has no commercial interest in obtaining the requested information. By the very nature of our non-profit purpose, we have no commercial interests in general nor any commercial interest in the information sought in this request. Our purpose for obtaining these records is to further public understanding of the workings of government.

If you decide to deny any part of this request, including my request for a fee waiver under the public-interest exemption of the Texas Public Information Act, please inform me of the specific reasons for your denial. Finally, please inform me of any estimated

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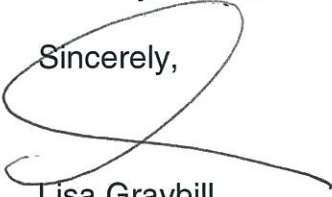
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costs before filling this request.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Graybill
Legal Director

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