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Reply to: Virginia

October 26, 2011

Via U.S. Mail and Facsimile (215) 893-6060

Mr. Stephen Eckley, Senior Vice
President for Hotels
Amerimar Enterprises
210 West Rittenhouse Square
Suite 1900
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

RE: Cancellation of Contract for Preserving Freedom Conference

Dear Mr. Eckley:

Liberty Counsel represents the Preserving Freedom Conference (hereinafter, "the Conference"). This Conference was scheduled for November 11, 2011. Under your leadership and management by Amerimar Enterprises, Hutton Hotels has unjustifiably and improperly cancelled the contract to provide the venue for this conference. There is insufficient time to obtain a new venue, and travel and lodging arrangements (including those with Hutton Hotel) will of necessity be changed or cancelled.

I write to demand that you immediately reverse this decision to prevent irreparable harm to the sponsors, participants and attendees of the conference, consisting of the loss of the conference location and the attendant damages you have caused these individuals and groups.

By way of brief introduction, I am the Founder of Liberty Counsel. Liberty Counsel is an international civil liberties, legal defense, and education organization with offices in Florida, Virginia, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Israel. We have hundreds of affiliate attorneys throughout the United States and around the world. We are regularly involved in issues affecting the rights of the faith-based community, and have had particular success litigating these matters in courts across the country, up to and including the U.S. Supreme Court.

J. Curtis Hinton, Director of Events for Hutton Hotels, contracted with Lou Ann Zelenik, on behalf of the Tennessee Freedom Coalition, to provide the location for the Conference on August 11, 2011. I have attached a copy of the contract for your ready reference. As you can see, Mr. Hinton signed the contract in his official capacity as

Mr. Stephen Eckley, Senior Vice President for Hotels
Amerimar Properties
October 26, 2011
Page 2

Director of Events for Hutton Hotel. During discussions leading up to the agreement between the parties, Ms. Zelenik specifically informed Mr. Hinton that the conference was for the purpose of discussing Shariah law, radical Islam, terrorism, and their effects upon American society. Ms. Zelenik and other speakers at the conference are nationally-known, prominent individuals in their fields. A copious amount of information is readily available describing the nature of their position on the above mentioned issues, from both friend and foe. Mr. Hinton voiced no concern with or objection to the conference or the speaker list at the time he signed the contract on behalf of Hutton Hotel. No clause in the contract gives you the authority to act as you have done.

With this background established, I turn now to the specific matter that gives rise to this letter.

The Conference is not an "anti-Muslim" conference; it is an event dedicated to the discussion of Shariah law, radical Islam, and the terrorism and violence otherwise known as "jihad." As you know, it is incontrovertible that Shariah law directly causes the suffering and oppression of millions of women; Christian, Jewish, and other religious minorities; and a host of others that have the misfortune to be at odds with its vision of reality. Furthermore, millions of Muslims who are not of the ruling sect du jour within a given jurisdiction are subjected to Shariah in their own countries, as interpreted by the local ruling classes and clerics. Shariah law mandates the silencing of any perceived criticism of Islam.

The Conference would have discussed the above issues in a scholarly, professional, and responsible manner. Sessions planned for the conference included "The European Experience" with Shariah, "Religious Persecution Under Shariah," "The Dehumanization and Diminishment of Women in the West Under Shariah," "The Muslim Brotherhood In America" and "Fighting Islamist Propaganda in the Media." Concern over and discussion of the above legitimate issues do not constitute an "attack on Islam" and are not "hateful". To state the opposite would simply be untrue. Discussion of these issues is not "anti-Islam," is eminently reasonable, is not hateful, and furthermore, is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Speakers at the Conference, in addition to myself, would have included the following: David French (American Center for Law and Justice), Frank Gaffney (Center for Security Policy), Pamela Geller (Stop Islamization of America and Atlas Shrugs) Fred Grandy (entertainer, former Congressman and talk show host), Rabbi Jonathan Hausman, Bishop Earl Jackson (STAND America), Andrea Lafferty (Traditional Values Coalition), Father Keith Roderick (Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights), Pastor Rick Scarborough (Vision America), Robert Spencer (Jihad Watch), Wafa Sultan (author and eminent critic of Islamism), Coptic Christian Joseph Nasralla, Bill Warner (Political Islam), Rep. Rick Womick (Tennessee Legislature) and Lou Ann Zelenik (Tennessee Freedom Coalition).

Mr. Stephen Eckley, Senior Vice President for Hotels
Amerimar Properties
October 26, 2011
Page 3

All of this information was readily available, both prior to the signing of the contract, and prior to your unwarranted and improper cancellation of it. By your own admission in the press, you did not perform due diligence before overreacting. As you said, you "weren't exactly sure what the content of the program was," but then claim that you canceled the Conference because of a supposed threat of physical harm to people at the hotel.

Have you indeed informed the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice of these threats? Have you turned over all information in your possession to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for it to verify and investigate? If not, why not?

If these "threats" are significant enough to warrant the cancellation of a binding agreement, cause tens of thousands of dollars in damages to paying customers, and alienate your company from a vast swath of other potential American customers, are they not significant enough to call the authorities?

If you truly have received serious threats of violence in response to legitimate First Amendment expression, you have an obligation to report it to the government, not act in concert with the demands of radical Islam. Failure to do so, and on the contrary, outright cooperation and apparent agreement with those demanding the silencing of "critics of Islam" could subject your company to liability for conspiracy to commit civil rights violations, in addition to contractual liability for unjustifiable breach of contract.

It is not in the best interest of the Hutton Hotel or any other companies owned or managed by Amerimar Enterprises for your company to suppress the free speech rights of the organizers and participants of the Conference by breaching the contract. Breach of contract on spurious allegations is improper, has caused great damages, and has positioned your holdings against the faith-based community who are concerned with radical Islam, which numbers in the millions of potential customers. This community's purchasing power and voice far outweighs the paltry amount of petitions and phone calls you have received thus far.

Mr. Stephen Eckley, Senior Vice President for Hotels
Amerimar Properties
October 26, 2011
Page 4

We want to resolve this issue as amicably as possible, but if your companies intentionally cause damages to the Conference, its speakers, and its attendees, for no legitimate reason, we will be left with no other choice than to pursue all available remedies. Please respond to this letter in writing no later than Thursday, October 27, 2011 with assurances that Hutton Hotel/Amerimar Enterprises will honor its commitment to the Conference.

Sincerely,

LIBERTY COUNSEL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mathew D. Staver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line striking through the middle of the name.

Mathew D. Staver[†]

cc:

Hutton Hotel, Via Facsimile (615) 340-0010

J. Curtis Hinton, Director of Events

Amerimar Enterprises, Via Facismile (215) 893-6060

Gerald Marshall, President & CEO

Jon Cummins, COO

Stephen Gleason, Executive VP

Charles Blume, CFO

Jason Terp, Senior VP

Karen Oruska, Senior VP & Corporate Controller

Lisa East, Senior VP of Multifamily

[†] Licensed in Florida and the District of Columbia