

Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia

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Press Release

For Immediate Publication

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Protesting Boy Scouts of America Bigotry Press Conference, Rally, and March Scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2003

The Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia (FSGP) and Scouting For All (S4A) will conduct a press conference, rally, and march on Thursday, **October 9, 2003** outside the headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Cradle of Liberty Council. It is located at 22nd and Winter Streets (just off the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and west of Logan Circle), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1085. The rally and press conference will take place at **noon**.

This Philadelphia event is being held in conjunction with S4A's fourth annual Rally Week. Protests, demonstrations, rallies, and marches are being held in nearly every state.

BSA's 1928 agreement with the city allows them to occupy a city-owned building completely rent free. A June 18, 2000, U. S. Supreme Court ruling gave BSA "private" organization recognition, allowing them to discriminate against the Atheist and gay communities. This puts BSA in violation of Pennsylvania anti-discrimination laws. The city is currently reconsidering its 1928 agreement with BSA. FSGP and S4A contend that BSA must change its discriminatory membership policies, pay full rent or leave!

FSGP and S4A are calling for the

Philadelphia City Solicitor to take decisive action immediately.

At **1:00 PM**, rally participants will march from the BSA building to City Hall in support of Pennsylvania's non-discrimination statutes. A letter will be delivered to **Mayor John Street**'s office requesting that the city stand firm in its negotiations with BSA.

FSGP and S4A are requesting full disclosure of the relationship between the City of Philadelphia and BSA. As concerned taxpayers, members of FSGP and S4A do not want BSA to benefit from any "sweetheart" rental or lease deals.

Furthermore, FSGP and S4A are insisting that BSA be held accountable for money owed to the City of Philadelphia since BSA officially announced that they are a "private" organization (June 2000).

Contact the following people for more information or questions:

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