

May 5, 2015

John Wilborn, Director
Curtis Culwell Center

Dear Mr. Wilborn,

I'm writing on behalf of Jesus People for Animals, PETA's Christian division, to request permission to place a banner on the façade of the Curtis Culwell Center. In the wake of this week's shooting—in which two men came to your venue ready to inflict mass violence upon the attendees of the Muhammad Art Exhibit—our banner would promote a message of nonviolence toward all living beings. The artwork features images of peas arranged to represent various religious symbols, including the Christian cross, the Muslim star and crescent, the Hindu Aum, and the Jewish Star of David, and reads, "Give Peas a Chance: Go Vegan. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." This art was displayed on the West Bank and in Paris, the latter right after the *Charlie Hebdo* office massacre.

The violence inflicted on our fellow creatures who are slaughtered for food hinges on a simple lack of empathy for others who may appear different in some aspects but who share with us an interest in enjoying life without experiencing pain and fear. Yet in today's industrialized meat and dairy industries, chickens and turkeys have their throats cut while they're still conscious, fish are left to suffocate on the decks of boats or are cut open while they're still alive, and calves are taken away from their loving mothers within hours of birth so that humans can drink the milk intended for the infants. But none of this violence has to happen.

Human beings of all nationalities and religions often feel powerless in the face of the discrimination and violence in the world, yet every time that we sit down to eat, we can help actively resist contributing to such suffering by choosing to eat a meal made without violence. Our banner would remind everyone that regardless of our beliefs, we can share a message of kindness with the world by choosing a vegan diet.

Our banner will point out that the tenet "Love your neighbor as yourself" should surely mean showing mercy to all, not just to those you agree with or relate to. We hope you will embrace our idea.

Thank you for your consideration.

Grace and peace,



Sarah Withrow King
Director of Christian Outreach and Engagement