

Ms. Myriam Segui  
New Jersey DMV  
Special Plate Division  
P.O Box 015  
Trenton, NJ 08666

August 26, 2013

RE: Special Plate request (ATHE1ST)

Dear Ms. Segui,

I write in reference to my recent request for a special plate which reads ATHEIST (with a 1 instead of an I). This plate has been refused because it has been deemed “offensive”. It is my strong opinion that this is in error and ask I you to reverse this status and allow me to have the plate. Please note the following:

- 1) I am an atheist, and I am President of American Atheists, the oldest nonprofit organization in the country for atheists, based in Cranford, NJ. Our organization is most notable for our Supreme Court win removing forced prayer from public schools in 1963, and our current lawsuit against the IRS.
- 2) According to USA TODAY, 15% of New Jersey citizens are atheists, making us the third largest religious demographic in the state.
- 3) “Atheist” is a term used by the US military for dogtags, and Arlington National Cemetery uses the term for nonreligious war heroes.
- 4) ATHEIST is NOT an “offensive term” – it’s a label, is a common noun found in the dictionary, and is not at all derogatory.
- 5) ATHEIST is accepted on plates in many other states, and apparently ATHEIST (with an I) is already taken in New Jersey.



“Religious Freedom” includes the ability to decline religion; “Free Speech” means we can speak our minds, even when we say things with which others disagree. The First Amendment guarantees both of these rights, which I proudly defend for a living.

With this information in mind, I respectfully request reconsideration of my request, and the approval of my personalized license plate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Silverman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Silverman  
President,  
American Atheists, Inc.

CC (email):

Amanda Knief, Esq, In-House Counsel, American Atheists  
Edwin Kagin, Esq. National Legal Director, American Atheists  
Bruce Afran, Esq.