

Texas Religious Land Use Dispute Ends in Settlement

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A large religious land use settlement in Texas has come to a conclusion, as the city of Bellmead has come to an agreement with the Church of the Open Door, providing all necessary permits and variances and a \$550,000 cash award.

The settlement ends several years of contentious litigation in a case brought under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), a federal law that forbids discrimination against religious organizations for acquiring and using property.

At issue in the case was the church's right to use the property as a transitional facility versus the city's desire to prevent such use. The House Where Jesus Shines is a religious ministry dedicated to helping men transition from incarceration to society.

"The House Where Jesus Shines and the Church of the Open Door looks forward to continuing its mission and services as a vital community resource for the city of Waco," said Dan Dalton, attorney for the Church of the Open Door.

Terms of the settlement must take effect by October 5, 2009.

Source:

Tanner Friedman Communications

<http://www.churchsolutionsmag.com/hotnews/texas-religious-land-use-dispute-ends.html>