



July 2, 2012

Robert Shibley
Senior Vice President
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Sinclair Community College

Dear Mr. Shibley:

Your letter dated June 15, 2012, to Steven Lee Johnson, President of Sinclair Community College, has been referred to me for response. In your letter you express concerns about an event held on Sinclair's campus on May 24, 2012. The event was sponsored by a recognized student organization, the Traditional Values Club. The club had requested and received approval to hold the event in one of the outdoor plaza areas on campus. In the request the club described the event, included a list of speakers, and requested to use a Sinclair sound system. The event request did not include any information about the use of signs during the event. Prior notification of signs is required in order to provide for the safety and security of our entire college community, particularly when the event includes numerous persons who are not students or employees of the college, as this event did. The actions of the Sinclair police officers on May 24, 2012 were carried out in accordance with existing college policy.

While we understand your concerns about public property, Sinclair's campus has always been a "limited public forum." This gives the college not only the legal right, but also the responsibility, to regulate the time, place, and manner of public events on campus. The existing campus access policy is an attempt to exercise those regulations in a fair and least restrictive manner.

The aim of Sinclair's campus access policy is to recognize the civil liberties guaranteed by the United States and Ohio Constitutions, including freedom of speech, press, and assembly. To that end, the college initiated a review of the policy in March 2012. The review is ongoing and we expect to have a revised policy implemented by the start of the new academic year in August 2012. Prior to finalizing the revised policy, we will solicit input from student organizations and others as appropriate.

Thank you for your interest in Sinclair Community College. We remain committed to providing an educated and well trained workforce for the Dayton Region as well as a safe and open learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Lauren M. Ross
General Counsel
Ohio Assistant Attorney General