



*The Arizona Correctional Peace
Officers Association*

Check and Mate Newsletter No. 22



*A bi-weekly newsletter to
inform Union members on
important grievance results,
trends, procedures and
important information
relevant to a better quality of
work life.*

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-We need a change! Part III



The Check and Mate Newsletter No. 22

A bi-weekly newsletter to inform Union members on important grievance results, trends, procedures and important information relevant to a better quality of work life.

We need a change! **Part III**

Last week, the division director, Carson McWilliams, came all the way down to Perryville to deny an employee's request to wear a beard to celebrate his chosen faith, Catholicism.

Many other Catholics have previously requested to wear a beard but were denied as well.

The reason?

Per McWilliams, Catholics will not be afforded the right to wear a beard because the "Pope" doesn't wear a beard.

That's right. He said it. The employee even had an AZCPOA member present as a witness to verify this lame and uneducated excuse firsthand.

He also mentioned that some religions, like the "Amish", wear beards as part of their religions and that is an example, I guess, of religions that have a history of wearing beards.

A little re-education is warranted here before I continue:

Firstly: the "Amish" are not a religion; they are a Protestant sect of the Swiss Anabaptist Church.

Secondly: they wear their beards as a symbol of adulthood, not for religious purposes.

As a side note, most religions wear a beard to emulate their chosen saviors and many Christians and Catholics wear a beard to honor the Christ, who according to all accounts, wore a beard.

I'm not intending this to be a lesson or discussion on religious protocol, just another fine example of needed changes within this department.

When a division director feels this comfortable denying religious requests with such asinine answers, then the time has come to fight.

So fight we will!

I am therefore informing all AZCPOA members that immediately following this denial, we filed a Federal EEO complaint because ADOC is allowing certain faiths the right to wear a beard and other accoutrements yet denying others through decisions based on ignorance and an obvious lack of education.

McWilliams went as far to advise the employee that he had studied religion at school.

He should get a refund.

As a final example on the extent of the chicanery and conniving behavior that this administration is willing to engage in to get their ways, Warden Dorsey, the Perryville Warden, issued a denial letter to the employee prior to the McWilliams meeting.

McWilliams himself confirmed during the meeting that she had no authority in issuing that letter.

Maybe she should go under one those famous inquiries that the department loves to impose on our staff for lesser offenses.

I wager not.

We will keep you posted on further developments as this case evolves.

Thank you for supporting AZCPOA with your membership and commitment to change.

Yours in Solidarity,

Carlos Garcia

*Executive Grievance
Coordinator*

Deeds not words!

