

All Church Picnic Moves To Alternate Site

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NPS Imposed Too Many Burdens on Faith-Based Groups, Attorney Says

VANCOUVER, Wash., April 3, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- For the past several months, Liberty Institute and our clients – the Fort Vancouver National Trust and Detour Ministries – have been involved in a dispute with the National Park Service (NPS) over the constitutionality of holding a church picnic at the Pearson Air Museum.

(Logo: <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20120523/DC12743LOGO-b>)

This week, Liberty Institute and our volunteer attorneys from Wilmer Hale sent a letter to the National Park Service, stating that the 2013 All Church Picnic will be moved from the grounds of the museum to an alternate location.

"The All Church Picnic was moved this year because the park service imposed too many burdens on the faith-based group," said Liberty Institute Director of Litigation Hiram Sasser. "These burdens are a violation of the First Amendment, and we are hopeful that we can reach an agreement where the Pearson grounds can once again be accessible for all residents, including people of faith."

In February, the NPS, which owns the museum, ended its agreement with the Fort Vancouver National Trust, which had been operating the museum, and abruptly closed the museum because certain planned activities, including the All Church Picnic, were deemed a violation of NPS policy.

About Liberty Institute

Liberty Institute is a nonprofit legal group dedicated to restoring and defending religious liberty across America – in our schools, for our churches, and throughout the public arena. Liberty Institute's vision is to reestablish liberty in accordance with the principles of our nation's founders. Visit www.LibertyInstitute.org for more information.

SOURCE Liberty Institute