



AMERICAN ATHEISTS

Mayor Ivy R. Taylor
City Hall
100 Military Plaza
San Antonio, TX 78205

April 24, 2017

Dear Mayor Taylor:

At an event earlier this month, you were asked your thoughts about the root causes of generational poverty. In your response, you said:

“...to me, it's broken people. People not being in a relationship with their creator and therefore not being in a good relationship with their families and their communities and not being productive members of society.”

I can't begin to tell you how disappointing—and frankly hurtful—comments like these are to the more than 40% of your city's residents who are atheists and non-religious.

Let me be clear: Atheists are not “broken people.” Having a relationship with a creator or being religious have nothing to do with the relationships people have with their families, their communities, or their contributions to society.

Atheists are your doctors, your police officers, members of your staff, your friends and family. If you think you don't know any atheists, you're wrong. It may simply be that the atheists in your life are uncomfortable telling you that they don't share your religious convictions because they worry about your reaction.

Thankfully, these comments present an opportunity. I challenge you to meet some of your atheist constituents. American Atheists has a vibrant affiliate group, the Freethinkers Association of Center Texas, located right there in San Antonio. I will be more than happy to make the introductions.

Learn about our community. Learn about us as people. And, most importantly, learn why your statements hurt us. Atheists in America face bigotry, distrust, and intolerance daily. Your state's senator, Ted Cruz, said during the 2016 presidential campaign that atheists are unfit to serve as President.

I urge you, Mayor Taylor, to take this opportunity to connect with hundreds of thousands of your constituents. You represent all San Antonians, including atheists. So please, let us show you why we care about the direction of San Antonio, of Texas, and of our nation.

Most Sincerely,

Nick Fish
National Program Director