



Pagan Solidarity Alliance (PSA)

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Religion, Law Enforcement, and American Government

A Briefing for Government Leaders and Law Enforcement Personnel

The following are suggestions for organizing and presenting an informational program for community leaders, on issues surrounding religion, good government, and law enforcement.

1. **WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR PROGRAM TO INCLUDE?** With other Pagan leaders in your community, design what you want to include and how the material will be researched, organized, and presented. Do this before you approach community leaders. Brief outline of topics follows to get you started.
2. **SUGGESTED OUTLINE:**
 - Welcome and introductions: Who you are, why you're qualified to speak on the topic, and the aims of the program (to help them do their jobs in a professional and fair manner, NOT to propagandize or recruit).
 - The U.S. Constitution and freedom of religion.
 - Situations they may face as community leaders. Accurate information can only help.
 - Knowing your community's religious makeup; making connections with religious leaders as information resources. (Have some accurate information on religious diversity in your area.)
 - What is Paganism?
 - What is NOT part of Paganism?
 - Legitimate community concerns about religious issues. (List)
 - Religious requests or demands that cannot be accommodated by American community leaders.
 - Maintaining good communications with all local religious communities.
 - Thanks, resources and handouts, and a question-and-answer period.

3. MEDIA AND CONTENTS: Your program might include a Powerpoint/slide presentation, lecture, visual aids such as posters and charts, a question-and-answer period, thought exercises, a book display, handouts, and refreshments.
4. WHO TO CONTACT: You can always contact an agency and ask: “How is in charge of training programs and/or setting the agenda for meetings?” It might be a Village Manager; a Town or County Council Chairperson, a City Mayor, Council President, Police Chief, or County Sheriff.
5. MAKE THE INITIAL CONTACT:
 - Introduce yourself, including your title and the fact that you are a local resident.
 - Explain that you have a program you would like to share, free, as a community service, to their Staff, Board, or Council.
 - Name the program, and tell them that it’s a factual unbiased look at your religious community, and ways their people can interact with all local religious groups in a legal, professional, and constructive manner.
 - Explain that you can meet with them and share details of the program, so they can be sure that it’s unbiased and would be useful to their people. Ask when and where they might be available to look it over.
 - Whatever they say, thank them, and follow up in a courteous and friendly manner.
6. PRESENTATION:
 - Assuming they are open to the program, assemble your presentation team. Perhaps three people is a good number, to support one another without overwhelming them with numbers. Dress professionally, and if you can, include both a female and a male, and one or more older people.
 - Mix up presenters and media, to keep it interesting.
 - Assume that your audience is open and friendly, unless they prove otherwise.
 - Stay courteous and friendly yourself, regardless.
 - Never criticize other religions.
 - Stay out of the weeds; too much detail is never good.
 - Include humor, of a very general kind (weather, parking, food, etc.)
 - Provide informative handouts and yummy refreshments.
 - Don’t tell them how to do their jobs; you are just there to provide helpful information.
7. FOLLOWUP: Provide any information and resources that may have been requested. Thank them for the opportunity to present the program. Offer to serve as a resource if related questions should arise in the future.

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-Amber K