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Church of Satanology Demands Flag Fly Over Hartford City Hall

Jamil Ragland

8–10 minutes



The flag/banner/sticker of the Church of Satanology, which is operated by Chaz Stevens, a Florida atheist who advocates for the separation of church and state by flying the flag at government institutions that opt to display religious symbols. Credit: [Contributed / Chaz Stevens' website](#)

Give the devil his due.

That's what the [Church of Satanology](#) is asking Hartford. The church, founded by [Florida-based activist T. Chaz Stevens](#), is asking for equal time to fly its flag above City Hall after a religious flag flew last week to commemorate Holy Week.

Stevens, who is an atheist, founded the Church of Satanology, which he refers to as a religion “based on sarcasm, satire and cynicism” to push back against government overreach.



Chaz Stevens, a Florida consultant who describes himself as an “atheist forcing Florida schools to follow the Constitution,” advocates for the separation of church and state by operating the Church of Satanology and attempting to fly its flag at government institutions that opt to display religious symbols. Credit: [Contributed / Chaz Stevens' website](#)

“I don’t believe in Satan, I don’t believe in God, or any of the 10,000 gods that have existed here on planet Earth,” he said during a telephone interview. “But what I do believe is in the First Amendment and the Constitution. So like Milton chose Satan, I chose Satan to make it really uncomfortable. My banner is problematic just because of those five words. There’s nothing profane. There’s nothing obscene. There’s nothing on the sign that would be intolerable except for those five words.”

Those five words are “Satan Loves the First Amendment,” emblazoned upon a red background and superimposed over an image of Satan pointing at the observer like Uncle Sam in his famous “I Want You” poster.

Ironically, Stevens is basing his legal strategy on a lawsuit by a Christian organization. In [Shurtleff vs. City of Boston](#), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that since the city didn’t craft the message or meaningfully act in the selection of flags to raise, that the raising of flags is private, not government, speech.

With that ruling in hand, Stevens is now demanding equal time.

“[They] put a Christian flag on public property, and when they did that, they opened that flag pole up as a public forum,” he said. “I prefer no Christian, no religious flags up, but the fact that they put theirs up allows me to put mine up. They’re either getting my flag raised or a lawsuit.”

Deputy Chief of Staff Cristian Coraz-Godinez referred questions to the city’s [ordinance on flag raisings](#), which states that flags may be displayed by resolution of the City Council.

“The city flag pole is not a public forum – the city does not solicit flag raising requests,” he said in a statement. “Any flag raised is consistent with previously adopted City Council policy. By a 7-2 vote, the Hartford City Council elected to fly this flag.”

Stevens has made requests for flag raisings or filed lawsuits in several states. In late 2024, he was involved in a [lawsuit against Broward School District](#) for selling advertising space to church groups, which then placed banners on fences surrounding a local high school football field.

While the judge ruled in the district’s favor, it still changed the district’s policy and removed the church banners.

Stevens rejects the characterization that he’s simply a rabble rouser hurling legal bolts across the country, targeting flags that he’s never even

seen himself.

“There are people in Connecticut that are bothered by this, I guarantee you that,” he said. “I know how to push the buttons and affect change. And who’s to say that I can’t reach out to Connecticut? When they talk about the U.S. Constitution, the right and the freedom of speech, our First Amendment rights, why does that become just a local issue?”

Stevens said the separation of church and state must be maintained not for philosophical reasons, but for legal ones.

“The law of the land says the government shall not establish a religion. That’s not philosophy, that’s a hard fact,” he said. “The folks in Hartford, Bridgeport, and Torrington, chose a third option. Instead of all religious flags, or no religious flags, they chose some religious flags. They said, ‘The ones that we approve of will fly and the ones that we disapprove of, a.k.a. Satanology, you guys can take a hike or sue us.’”

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= 'https://public.tableau.com/javascripts/api/viz_v1.js';  
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Jamil Ragland writes and lives in Hartford. You can read more of his writing at www.nutmeggerdaily.com.

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