

Mayor Caught Shoplifting

A Colorado mayor who put the *Ten Commandments* in front of City Hall was arrested for shoplifting, according to an article published by *Patheos*, a non-denominational, non-partisan online media company. Here is the background ...



In 2001, the ACLU and some city residents filed a lawsuit over a *Ten Commandments* monument outside the new City Hall building in Grand Junction, Colorado, arguing that as a Christian symbol, it had no place on government property. Knowing that they would likely lose the lawsuit, the city council members decided to put a disclaimer on the monument, saying it was “not meant to endorse any particular system of religious belief.”

Mayor Reford Theobold came up with the idea of showing the *Ten Commandments* as a historic rather than a religious document by surrounding it with stone tablets of secular documents like the *Magna Carta*, *Bill of Rights* and the *Mayflower Compact*. The plan cost \$64,000 of taxpayer funds, but it worked; the lawsuit didn’t go anywhere.

Later, Theobold was ticketed on suspicion of theft by shoplifting after an employee of Cabela’s observed him taking several *Big Hunk* candy bars, hiding them in a file folder and walking past registers without paying, according to the arresting officer’s summons. He also had two maps that weren’t paid for. Known as a religious person, Theobold was the Lions Club 2014 Lion of the Year and has a press box at Stoker Stadium named after him.

In 2016, a Municipal Court judge ordered him to pay \$125 in fees and fines, perform eight hours of useful public service and attend theft education classes.

One of the many comments left at the end of news posts said: “Maybe he should tattoo the *Ten Commandments* on his chest so he has them with him at all times, since he seems to need the constant reinforcement.”

But God has a better suggestion. He offers to inscribe His law on our hearts. That way, they’re not only a constant reminder, but it becomes our heart’s desire to fulfill them.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee (Psalm 119:11 KJV).

Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3 NLT).

– Beecher Hunter