

Ms. Romanelli,

Please accept my religious declaration along with the form as a religious exemption. I feel it is important to note that these are and have been my sincerely held religious beliefs that I will state in the exemption form, but that I am feeling compelled to participate in this exemption filing at this point from undo-influence and duress, against my genuine consent in this participation and filing.

It is despite my sincere disagreement with having to submit this form, the coercion and pressure I am feeling from the intimidation of losing the ability to provide for my family, that I am submitting this form to you. With that protest being understood, I want to make it clear that these beliefs filed are genuine and sincerely held between myself and G-d. I find it wrong and offensive that I would have to file my religious beliefs, to have my G-d and my G-d's laws judged by someone to determine their legitimacy and/or sincerity.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employers from discriminating against the employees on the basis of their sincerely held religious beliefs. See 42 U.S.C. 2000e-2(a) – “It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer...to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of such individual’s race, color, religion, sex, or national origin”.

I am notifying the City of my sincerely held religious and moral beliefs. This is not the first time a supervisor or member of the department has been notified of myself having sincere religious beliefs that prevent me from taking the covid-19 vaccination. If you require anything further from me, please make the request in writing (email: edward.brockschmidt@lacity.org).

All communications and correspondence associated, prepared, and received in the course of, but not limited to, examining, settling, or satisfying any issue, matter, or claim that you are associated or involved with, shall be admissible in evidence in any current or resulting action or proceeding whatsoever.

Thank you so much for taking the time to assist me with these difficult matters. I appreciate it very much.

Respectfully,

Firefighter Edward Brockschmidt

April 9th, 2024



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
County of Ventura

On April 24, 2024 before me, Maria Los Angeles Rodriguez
(insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared Edward Henry IV Bockschmidt
who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) ~~is/are~~
subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he ~~she~~ they executed the same in
~~his/her~~ their authorized capacity(ies), and that by ~~his/her~~ their signature(s) on the instrument the
person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] (Seal)



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

EMPLOYEE REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement Exemption)

EMPLOYEE NAME Edward Brockschmidt	EMPLOYEE ID [REDACTED]
JOB TITLE Firefighter III	LOCATION Accounting/MLU
DEPARTMENT Fire Department	SUPERVISOR Captain Dane Broesel
PHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]	EMAIL [REDACTED]

By submitting this form, I acknowledge I am requesting an exemption to the City of Los Angeles COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for All Current and Future City Employees as a religious accommodation based on my sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance.¹

To be eligible for this exemption, complete and submit both this form and a completed Religious Accommodation Certification Form.

The granting of an exemption request will be based on the entirety of the application and not based on any single piece of information provided.

TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYEE REQUESTING EXEMPTION

1. Do you regard yourself as having a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance that you believe should exempt you from the City's COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement?
 Yes
 No

¹ Decisions on Religious Exemption Requests will be decided on a case by case basis. Religious beliefs do not have to be theistic, but can be non-theistic, strongly held moral or ethical beliefs. However, mere personal preferences -- beliefs based on social, political or economic philosophies, or veganism, for example -- are not considered religious beliefs. Employees who hold a sincerely held religious belief will be engaged in an interactive process and accommodated, absent an undue hardship to the City.

EMPLOYEE NAME
Edward Brockschmidt

EMPLOYEE ID

PAGE 2 OF 5

2. If your answer to Question 1 is "Yes," please identify/explain the nature of your sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance that is the basis for your request for an exemption as a religious accommodation **and** how long you have held or maintained the referenced religious belief, practice or observance.

G-d's laws forbid me from taking the covid-19 vaccine.

3. If your answer to Question 1 is "Yes," please briefly explain how your sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance **conflicts** with the City of Los Angeles's COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

The covid-19 vaccination requirement goes against G-d's law.

4. If your answer to Question 1 is "Yes," please briefly explain how your sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance that conflicts with the City of Los Angeles's COVID-19 vaccination requirement also governs or impacts other aspects of your life.

My beliefs forbid me from acting immorally or unethically (stealing from others, murdering, loyalty to my wife, respect to family and neighbors).

I am to practice my faith by worshipping my G-d and his laws only, no others. To follow his laws, to treat my body as a temple he provided.

EMPLOYEE NAME	EMPLOYEE ID
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PAGE 3 OF 5

5. Have you previously received a vaccination of any kind after the age of 18 (e.g. vaccination(s) for Influenza (the "flu"), Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, Measles, Chicken Pox, Polio, Yellow Fever, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Tuberculosis, Shingles, Typhoid, etc.)?

- Yes
 No

6. Provide below or attach any additional information supporting your religious accommodation request, including, but not limited to:

Articles from religious scholars that describe the nature of the religious belief(s), practice(s), or observance(s); Excerpts from religious or sacred texts explaining the religious belief(s), practice(s), or observance(s); or Written materials that describe the religious belief(s), practice(s), or observance(s) that prohibit vaccination.

No additional supporting articles, texts, or written materials are necessary according to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The mandate may be violating City Ordinance 18557 which prohibits registering individuals based on religion. United Firefighters of Los Angeles City opposes the mandate and the mandate is not a condition of employment in the current Memorandum of Understanding (MLU) contract.

My supervisors have been aware of my strongly held religious beliefs, and I have attempted to display and declare my sincerely held religious beliefs during this process. My attempts went unanswered and there was no good-faith by the recipient in notifying me whether or not my previous exemption has been denied or approved or in need of adjustment.

Please accept my religious declaration as a religious exemption. I feel it is important to note that these are and have been my sincerely held religious beliefs, but that I am feeling compelled to participate in this exemption filing at this point from undo-influence and duress, against my genuine consent in this participation and filing.

It is despite my sincere disagreement with having to submit this form, the coercion and pressure I am feeling from the intimidation of losing the ability to provide for my family, that I am submitting this form to you. With that protest being understood, I want to make it clear that these beliefs filed are genuine and sincerely held between myself and G-d. I find it wrong and offensive that I would have to file my religious beliefs, to have my G-d and my G-d's laws judged by someone to determine their legitimacy and/or sincerity.

My religion is not to be subjected by others, for their approval. I have one G-d, one Ruler, and under my G-d's law is how I am suppose to obey and live. The very fact the city has pressured me to subject my religion to LAFD and LA City review creates discomfort, and is interpreted as coercing me to act outside the best practice in following my G-d and His Laws.

EMPLOYEE NAME Edward Brockschmidt	EMPLOYEE ID [REDACTED]
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PAGE 4 OF 5

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

*I understand that the City may contact the individual I have assigned to complete my **Religious Accommodation Certification Form** to verify authenticity of the document or to obtain clarification.*

*While my request is pending, I understand that I must comply with the City of Los Angeles's **Workplace Safety Standards** and all other City safety policies and practices (e.g., face coverings, regular asymptomatic testing) for unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated individuals as a condition of my employment. The City's required safety practices may include more stringent requirements than those established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. I also understand that I must comply with any additional safety practices applicable to my circumstances or position.*

If my request is granted, I understand I will be required to comply with departmental and City safety protocols for unvaccinated employees as a condition of my employment.

I verify the truth and accuracy of the statements and acknowledgements made in this request form. I also understand that the knowing submission of false or misleading information violates City policy for which I may be subject to discipline (See City of Los Angeles Personnel Policies Section 33.2).

Employee Printed Name	EDWARD BROCKSCHMIDT
Employee Signature	[REDACTED]
Date	APRIL 9 TH , 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
County of Ventura

On April 9th 2024 before me, Maria Los Angeles Rodriguez
(insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared Edward Harry IV Brooks Schmidt
who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] (Seal)



EMPLOYEE NAME Edward Brockschmidt	EMPLOYEE ID [REDACTED]
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PAGE 5 OF 5

DATES TO BE COMPLETED BY MANAGEMENT

Sent to Employee	
Completed Form Due	
Completed Request Form Submitted by Employee	

Submitted to Review Unit	
Submitted By	
Determination Submitted by Review Unit to Department	

TO BE COMPLETED BY COVID-19 EXEMPTION/DEFERMENT REVIEW UNIT

Assigned Reviewer(s): _____

Determination:

- Exemption Approved
- Exemption Denied
- More information needed:
 - Additional Documentation
 - Follow up with Certifying Individual (Form D)
 - Other: _____