# Atheists Target NFL Legend Deion Sanders

Atheist activists have set their sights on NFL legend-turned-coach Deion Sanders, targeting Sanders' purported intermingling of "football games and events with Christianity."

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), a secular activist group based in Madison, Wisconsin, put out a statement this week claiming they have been "successfully coaching Deion Sanders on the constitutional separation between state and religion."

The FFRF accused Sanders of "inappropriate and unconstitutional actions." The organization waged these claims in a Jan. 24 letter to the University of Colorado, where Sanders now coaches, after purported complaints from Colorado residents over the handling of faith and football.

The group said Sanders has been "engaging in religious exercises with players and staff members."

The letter, addressed to University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano, opened by expressing worries over "constitutional concerns" and "potential religious coercion through the football program."

"It is our understanding that on Dec. 20, 2022, a staff member led other staff members in a Christian prayer to start an official meeting," the letter reads. "More egregiously, on Jan. 16, 2023, Coach Sanders directed a staff member to lead players and coaches in Christian prayer before a team meeting."

The FFRF then provided a purported transcription of the invocation:

“Lord, we thank You for this day, Father, for this opportunity as a group. Father, we thank You for the movement that God has put us in place to be in charge of. We thank You for each player here, each coach, each family. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

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