

September 4, 2007

Hon. Rick Lawrence
City of Aurora
60 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60507

Dear Alderman Lawrence:

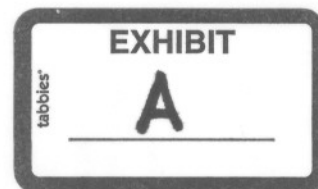
As you know, Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area will soon open a health center in Aurora. This facility will provide comprehensive gynecological services, including breast exams, pap tests, pregnancy tests, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and abortion services.

As you also know, those who oppose these services and this facility have asked the city of Aurora to take action to prevent the opening of this facility. I am aware that last week you heard from a number of residents organized by the Pro-Life Action League who alleged that Planned Parenthood and its subsidiary, Gemini Medical Office Group, somehow deceived the city of Aurora as it engaged in the permitting process. We are also aware that some members of the Council have made public statements in the media agreeing with that position.

I want to assure you that Planned Parenthood was open and truthful throughout the extensive permitting process and continues to welcome the cooperation of the City of Aurora.

Our corporate and financial documents were explicit about the involvement of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area:

- The corporate entity listed in our application for the permit is listed in public records.
- The tax-exempt bond financing for the project through the Illinois Development Finance Authority required a public hearing and further public disclosures of Planned Parenthood's involvement in this project. Planned Parenthood obtained tax-exempt financing, and complied with the additional public disclosures this process required, even though it could have easily financed the project privately with little or no public disclosures.



- The property was already zoned for medical uses, and we answered questions put to our representatives honestly and truthfully. We always planned to build a medical facility.

Did we hope to protect the privacy and safety of vendors working on our project and our future clients? Did we hope to avoid disruptive and potentially violent protests that might delay the opening of a facility greatly needed in DuPage and Kane Counties? You bet we did. It should be obvious by now why we chose that course.

As any responsible full-service women's health care facility would do, we took all appropriate precautions to prevent those who oppose women's access to contraception and abortion from learning about plans to build this facility. The activists of the Pro-Life Action League who have been opposing our new facility are headquartered in Aurora and have a well-documented history of advocating violence against both persons and property as well as other related criminal activity.

We think you will understand the urgency of our concerns when you consider the following facts about the Pro-Life Action League and its leader, Joe Scheidler.

- Scheidler (along with a handful of other anti-abortion leaders) formed PLAN – the Pro Life Action Network. Scheidler called PLAN the “pro-life mafia” and proclaimed “a year of pain and fear” for anyone seeking or providing abortion.
- After a six-week trial in 1998, a jury in Chicago unanimously found that the Pro-Life Action League Network orchestrated 121 crimes involving acts of threats of force or violence against women's health facilities that offered abortion. These crimes proven at trial included beating a post-operative ovarian surgery patient over the head with a sign, knocking her unconscious and causing her to bleed from the sutures in her abdomen; seizing a clinic administrator by the throat, choking and bruising her; and slamming a clinic staff member and volunteer against the stairs (sending them to a hospital and causing permanent injuries) and destroying medications and equipment. Joe Scheidler personally praised the individuals who carried out some of these misdeeds, even taking credit for them.

- Scheidler once said “I just wish I had a medal or some sort of battle scar for each time I was arrested” for his forceful opposition to abortion and throughout the period of militant anti-abortion protesting, when clinic bombings and murders of doctors spotted the headlines, Scheidler was unapologetic about his group’s tactics. “I’m doing what I have to do. So what? I’ve got some misdemeanors ... I don’t consider myself a criminal,” he said.
- Immediately upon learning of the Aurora facility, these radical anti-abortion activists began photographing the license plates of our construction workers and vowed to harass those who were working to build the facility. They also announced their intention of seeking a permit to picket the homes of our employees who will operate the facility.

Does it truly come as a surprise, then, that as we complied with all legal and public disclosure requirements, we simultaneously sought to keep this private while the construction was proceeding because the zealots who have been opposing our new facility have a well-documented history of violence and criminal activity?

Planned Parenthood has been providing reproductive health care throughout the Chicago Area for the past 60 years. We have a reputation for providing high-quality, accessible and affordable care for all who need it, and we look forward to serving the people of Aurora.

We have provided this support despite the often violent and illegal actions of those who oppose a woman's exercise of constitutionally protected rights to reproductive freedom.

If you have any questions regarding this issue or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 312-592-6800.

Sincerely,

s/Steve Trombley

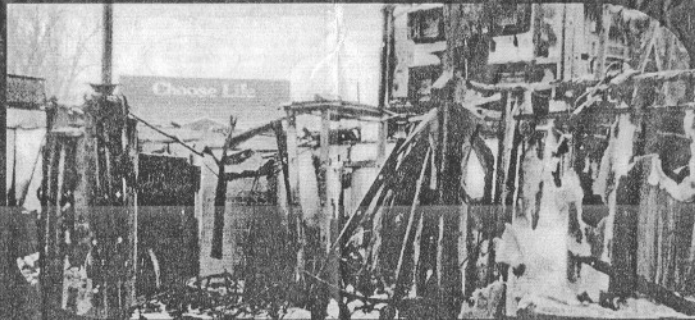
Steve Trombley, President and CEO
Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area

Cc: Mayor Tom Weisner
City Council

www.AuroraPlannedParenthood.org



DON'T LET THE EXTREMISTS DENY VITAL HEALTH CARE TO THE PEOPLE OF AURORA



A Planned Parenthood facility destroyed by arson in Michigan.

Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area is opening a new full-service center in Aurora to meet the health care needs of this community.

This facility will provide much-needed services such as comprehensive gynecological care, including breast exams, pap tests, contraception, pregnancy tests, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and abortion services. Many of these services will be provided to low-income residents with limited access to health care. Our opponents - led by radical anti-abortion extremist Joe Scheidler - are trying to use any means necessary to delay or stop us from opening this health center.

It's been more than 20 years since Joe Scheidler launched his "Year of Pain and Fear." In 1985, Scheidler promised to terrorize anyone seeking or providing abortion.

Now he's at it again.

Joe Scheidler and his Pro-Life Action League have a well-documented history of advocating violence against both persons and property, as well as other related criminal activity.

The leaders of the anti-Planned Parenthood protests like to describe their methods as "peaceful." Their record shows otherwise. Take for example the following:

After a six-week trial in 1998 (case NO. 86C7888), a jury in Chicago unanimously found that the Pro-Life Action League Network orchestrated 121 crimes involving acts of threats of force or violence against women's health facilities that offered abortion services:

These crimes proven at trial included:

- Beating a post-operative, ovarian surgery patient over the head with a sign, knocking her unconscious and causing her to bleed from the sutures in her abdomen.
- Seizing a clinic administrator by the throat, choking and bruising her; and slamming a clinic staff member and volunteer against the stairs (sending them to a hospital and causing permanent injuries).
- Destroying medications and equipment.

Joe Scheidler publicly praised the individuals who carried out some of these misdeeds, even taking credit for them.

As soon as they learned about the Aurora facility, these radical anti-abortion extremists began photographing the license plates of our construction workers and vowed to harass those who were working to build the facility. They also announced their intention of seeking a permit to picket the homes of our health center employees.

We will not allow these extremists to scare us away. Nor do we believe these extremists speak for the vast majority in this community.

There is a health care crisis in Aurora and across America. Every day, millions go without the care they need. We need to focus on solutions and move beyond divisive tactics that block the medical services that families need to stay healthy.

CALL YOUR ALDERMAN IN THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL AT 630.844.3619 AND LET THEM KNOW YOU SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

EXHIBIT

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September 7, 2007

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Mr. Steven Trombley
President and Chief Executive Officer
Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area
18 South Michigan Avenue, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Re: Fox Valley Families, etc. v. Planned Parenthood, et al

Dear Mr. Trombley:

We represent Fox Valley Families Against Planned Parenthood (“Fox Valley Families”), Eric Scheidler, and other residents of Aurora, Illinois, and the Fox River Valley who have been exercising their First Amendment rights, lawfully and peaceably, in opposition to the abortion facility which you propose to open in Aurora. We are writing you, on behalf of our clients, to demand a prompt and public retraction of false, libelous and malicious statements in your letter, dated September 4, 2007, to the mayor and aldermen of the City of Aurora.

Specifically, you falsely stated in your letter that those “opposing [your] new facility [who] are headquartered in Aurora ... have a well-documented history of advocating violence against both persons and property as well as other related criminal activity” (p. 1). You go on to assert, also falsely, that “the zealots who have been opposing our new facility have a well-documented history of violence and criminal activity” (p. 3).

Eric Scheidler, who resides with his family in Aurora and coordinates Fox Valley Families, has never been arrested let alone convicted of any criminal act in connection with pro-life or anti-abortion activity. He has never advocated violence against either persons or property. Nor has he engaged in any such violence in opposing abortion, or otherwise. Nor has any other coordinator or leader of Fox Valley Families. Nor to our knowledge has any violent act been committed, much less condoned, by any participant in the 40-day vigil in opposition to your new facility. Protest against your facility has been entirely peaceable and prayerful.

Your many assertions about the Pro-Life Action League (“the League”) and Joseph Scheidler, its director, are red herrings as they have nothing to do with the Aurora protests. But they too are false and misleading. This you well know, as your Planned Parenthood clinics were part of *NOW v. Scheidler*, a national class action suit, and you are bound by its final result in favor of the League and Scheidler. The verdict your letter cites was reversed by the United States Supreme Court, not just once but twice. In 2003, the verdict was overturned, 8-1. Then in 2006, the Justices again ruled for the League and Scheidler 8-0, “unanimously” – as you describe the verdict (p. 1) while omitting mention of its reversal. Final judgment was just entered in Chicago.



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PRO-LIFE LAW CENTER

On top of all this, the “121 crimes” found by jurors in their legally flawed verdict were in all but 4 instances what Dr. Martin Luther King had described as “peaceable, non-violent direct action” – peaceful, passive acts of Gandhian civil disobedience. Dr. King’s organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (“SCLC”) submitted a ‘friend to the Court’ brief arguing that SCLC too would have been deemed “corrupt” and violent if your flawed legal theory had been used against it. No wonder that theory was repudiated by our nation’s highest Court!

No one knows what were the 4 acts or threats of physical violence those jurors found or who committed them or when or where they were committed over 12 years of coast-to-coast pro-life activism. Even so, defendants proved after trial that much of the evidence put before those jurors was falsified, including much of what you relate in your letter. And of course, none of it – not a shred of it! – held up on appeal.

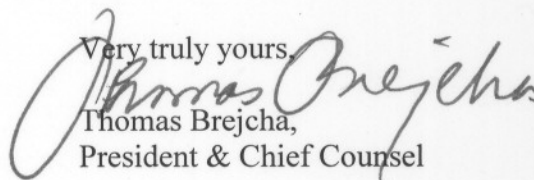
But *NOW v. Scheidler* has nothing whatever to do with the protests against your proposed facility in Aurora. Eric Scheidler was never named or involved in any way in that case. Nor was any other Aurora protester. Yes, you may choose to disparage these protesters as “zealots,” but you may not defame them as violent criminals or as advocates of violence with impunity.

Those opposed to your new facility have a First Amendment right lawfully to protest against your proposed killing of human beings you deem “unwanted.” They have every right, moreover, to protest against your encouraging teens to engage in sexual activity without limit or restraint under the guise of “safe sex.” Yes, you may find this annoying or deem it “harassing.” But good citizens have a right, if not also a duty, to speak out against what they find harmful to the public interest. Yes, you may disagree with their point of view, but you may not smear their good names and reputations with libelous falsehoods.

Should you not retract your false and libelous assertions against Eric Scheidler, or the Aurora protesters, or Fox Valley Families promptly by follow up letter, or by newspaper advertisement, or by public testimony at Aurora’s next council meeting next Tuesday evening, we shall seek legal redress.

Moreover, we shall press Aurora officials to seek redress for your false and misleading statements during the permit process when, as you were quoted in the *Chicago Tribune*, you took pains to keep your actual plans “secret” for as long as possible. As former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis insisted, “the best disinfectant is sunlight.” Those who try to confuse, deceive or mislead public officials must be held accountable.

TB/ak
cc: Fox Valley Families

Very truly yours,

Thomas Brejcha,
President & Chief Counsel