

Walter Hoyes Returns to Clinic

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By Dion Evans
Religion Editor

On Tuesday, February 24th , Walter Hoyer, President of the Issues4Life Foundation, returned to the clinic where he was formerly arrested for holding a sign on a public sidewalk stating, “GOD LOVES YOU AND YOUR BABY, LET US HELP YOU.”

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Family Planning Specialist Medical Group, is an abortion clinic (aka an Infanticide Clinic) which, according to their website, became the first abortion provider in California to be accredited with the CMA/AAAHC. [They] received a three-year accreditation, the highest level possible [and] have consistently received three-year accreditations ever since.

Hoye states, “Fetal homicide is the number one killer as it relates to the Black Community. Abortion alone ensures the Black community will not be able to replace ourselves - we are, nationally, below the birth replacement rate.”

Last week, Hoye stood before Alameda Superior Court’s Honorable Stuart Hing to be sentenced regarding his “sidewalk counseling” efforts. “The clinic will tell you they are pro-choice, but the only choice they provide is death,” stated Hoye.

During Hoye’s sentencing the clinic showed their strength. Being outnumbered 6 to 1, a representative from the clinic was able to convince Judge Stuart Hing to order the sheriff to change public court order. In any other case, once the courtroom is opened, the public is seated first come first served - with no reserve seating. However, the clinic’s request was granted allowing them to handpick 30 persons to occupy half the court’s seats.

Hoye, a local Black Pastor, was the first person in Alameda County’s history to face sentencing regarding the “Title 8 Health and Safety Chapter 8.52: Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities” - simply known as the “Bubble Law.” According to the pro-Choice organization NARAL’s website, Oakland City Councilwoman, Nancy Nadel crafted this ordinance due to “intimidation and harassment” occurring at 4 of the 5 Oakland abortion clinics.

During the sentencing phase of Hoye’s trial, Judge Stuart Hing shared his intent not to sentence Hoye to jail if Hoye would agree to “stay away” from the Webster Clinic. In response, Hoye stood to his feet and quoted Rev. Dr. MLK Jr.’s LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL, “Your Honor an unjust law is no law at all.” Hoye further stated, “I am willing to obey the law, but I will not give up my First Amendment rights to Free Speech.” The Judge rephrased his question four times and each time Hoye responded with “No.”

Hoye was freed, for now, and his temporary stay-away order expired. Since the order expired, Hoye returned to the clinic on Tuesday with the same sign and in the same manner. In a two hour period, nearly 25 women approached the Family Planning Medical Group. Staff persons from the clinic took various photos of Hoye as women approached the clinic doors. Oakland Police officers were summoned to the site but with no victim and no stay-away order - as long as Hoye didn’t move within 8 feet - no “bubble” was violated. Two police officers spoke with Hoye - then left him to minister to those who would listen.

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