

Court OKs 'bubble' law for abortion protests

The Associated Press

Posted: 07/28/2011 12:37:45 PM PDT

Updated: 07/28/2011 12:37:50 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal appeals court has upheld Oakland's so-called "bubble" law prohibiting protestors from coming within eight feet of abortion clinics.

But the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday ordered the city to revise its policing policy, saying the enforcement of the law is unconstitutional.

The court says the city erred when it let supporters offer words of encouragement to women entering a clinic but banned an opponent who was trying to dissuade patients from having abortions.

The unanimous three-judge panel was ruling in a lawsuit filed against the city by the Rev. Walter Hoye, who calls himself a "sidewalk counselor."

The appeals court ordered the trial judge to help Oakland craft an enforcement policy that bars all advocacy within the eight-foot bubble.



Liberty Mutual.

Q: Can I get **Quality Auto Insurance** at an **Affordable Rate**?

A: Yes, switch to Liberty Mutual and you could **save up to \$343.**

QUOTE NOW