



Brighton Resident Against Violence

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PRESENTED TO BRIGHTON TOWN BOARD ON AUGUST 11, 2021

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH IT AT 39:52](#)

15 September 2021

Doctor Name

Address

City, Zip Code

Brighton Resident Against Violence and much of the broader community of Rochester continue to oppose the construction of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic at 2235 South Clinton Ave. in Westfall Park near your medical office.

Pro-life representatives at Brighton Town Board meetings were subject to vile and abhorrent behavior by those who support Planned Parenthood. With police and news presence, those who supported Planned Parenthood destroyed signs and exhibited extreme and hateful conduct. These experiences were related to the August 11, 2021 Town Council meeting. For that presentation, see here [[Town of Brighton Board Meeting - August 11, 2021 - YouTube](#)] We have included some of their testimonies with this letter. Some excerpts are below.

“I was brutally attacked by a pro-choice person, saying they wished I were raped” (Madeline)

“One man said to me, I’d shove my fist up her vagina and rip it out myself” (Lee)

“A Planned Parenthood supporter told me, “Fuck your bible. I will fuck when I want to and often and whoever I want” (Donna)

“I’m Asian and they used that against me saying I should know better because in order to be ‘successful as a person of color,’ I need abortion” (Gabby)

Those who oppose Planned Parenthood were harassed, bullied, mocked for their race, income, sex, and moral beliefs. Supporters of Planned Parenthood shamelessly emulated the sex act, using expletives and crude invectives.

In another incident, August 13, 2021, pro-life groups around Rochester united in peaceful protest at the sight of the soon-to-be-built Planned Parenthood at Westfall Medical Park. During the event, Planned Parenthood supporters drove back and forth along South Clinton and Westfall Road, exposing themselves to the crowd and shouting vile statements.

Is this a foreshadowing of activity to come at Westfall Medical Park?

We are Brighton citizens who attend appointments and see clients at this medical corridor of Monroe County. As professionals who have patients entering your medical space within close proximity of this public attraction, we ask that you take into consideration the behavior that you will continue to see near and around your medical office.

Please help us to stand up against the construction of this new abortion clinic and their supporters who clearly disrupt the civility of our neighborhoods and town. Please appeal to the Town of Brighton and the Cabot Group, sign our petition, and join us in the fight to protect the integrity of your medical space and to protect Brighton.

Please send all questions, comments, and concerns to the address below, or email to: braveny2021@gmail.com

Mail to:

BRAVE
PO Box 18696
Rochester, NY 14618

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol Crossed
Ellen Duncan
Cecelia Hayes

TESTIMONIES FROM JULY 21, 2021 BRIGHTON PLANNING BOARD
MEETING AT BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

(From Gabby)

As a person of color, you should understand that we need this (abortion). These white people aren't going to help you, and they don't care about anybody or you. You should know better as someone who's Asian and represents our community. This was offensive to say that a

person of color should be on their side, to say that a person of color should stand for the violence of killing as a solution so that I can be “successful” as they said. We need to change that narrative.

(From Paul)

When I was at the meeting while standing at the front steps I had someone shove me and grab my sign, but I held on and told her to keep her hands to herself. While inside giving testimony, I was heckled the entire time, with PP supporters interrupting with shouted out comments, ridicule, groaning sighs, and snide remarks.

(From Lee)

I was standing by the steps of the Town Hall and a man in his mid-fifties came by and said “I don’t know what side to stand on?” I said it’d be nice to have you on our side. He said “Shut up, you’re a f***ing asshole.”

There was another man being disruptive who had a microphone and speaker. The police had to tell him to stop because his was being terribly rude. I showed him a picture of a baby and asked him if he thought that it could be killed. He said “I’d shove my fist up her vagina and rip it out myself”.

(Anonymous)

I’m a young woman in her 20s. I was approached by two women of a similar age group. One asked myself and several others around me if I had ever been raped and saying she hoped we would. I am a survivor of not just rape but gang rape. When I went to the Brighton Town Hall meeting that evening, I never thought someone would have the audacity to remind me of that trauma I endured and to tell me my beliefs were wrong because of it.

The other woman with her approached several other pro life advocates and belligerently yelled at them about how they were racist, sexist, etc. I am a teacher in the city of Rochester who works primarily with students of color. I taught through a pandemic and have assisted my students in social work cases. This protestor had the nerve to go off about how myself and fellow advocates were racists when my 50+ hour week JOB is closing the achievement gap for students of color in our city.

Both women were causing unnecessary arguments between protestors on both sides that were previously standing peacefully next to one another. I didn't expect disrespectful interactions of this caliber to occur in a town like Brighton.

(From Donna)

What I saw after leaving the building outside were those in favor of the abortion clinic, and Pro-life people.

Some of the pro-abortion people, at least a handful of them were vile and extremely disrespectful toward those that were standing on the Pro-life side. One young woman and one young man were gyrating, obviously emulating the sex act right next to the road and in front of Pro-life people who were peaceful and respectful.

One pro-life person that had a Bible was being mocked, and I heard one of the pro-abortion people saying loudly something like, "fuck your Bible, fuck it!" One young woman was saying loudly, "I will fuck when I want to and often and whoever I want!" These pro-abortion people were loud and vile, and mocking pro-life people.

I tried to converse with one of the young men and asked him, "do you believe in free speech?" He turned his back on me, put up his hand and said, "not talking to you!" I was trying to have a conversation with him and a few other pro-abortion people but they would not have it. One of the women that was the first to get up and speak when the meeting was open was verbally and personally attacked. A pro-abortion black woman was wagging her behind, and said something like, "be quiet, wrinkled legs, "right to that woman, " Many of the pro-abortion people, mostly fairly young were saying disgusting things to the profilers, probably to intimidate them and mock them.

(From Madeline)

On Wednesday, July 21st around 6 pm I arrived at the Brighton town hall in order to participate in my first pro-life protest and participate in speaking on behalf of the unborn in front of the Brighton Planning Board. The night began as a peaceful protest where people were simply holding signs on behalf of their standing. However, as the night progressed there seemed to be a growing tension among the opposing sides.

Toward the beginning, there had only been a few outbursts such as a woman yelling and asking people why they think getting rid of women's health care would help and why people would advocate for demolishing the rights of women. She was also

holding an offensive sign stating “My Body, My Choice, F*CK Off.” We were then directly attacked by one African American and one Asian woman who was asking what we planned on doing with the babies once they were born. They also persistently asked if we had been raped and before anyone could even react they concluded that we have not because we are "white privilege."

One woman was holding a sign that said, “Civil Rights for the Unborn” and was being brutally attacked by the pro-choicers, asking if she had been raped and then telling her that they were disgusted by her skin (because she was white and they were not). This woman persisted by calling us racist and immature for not understanding why women would get abortions. This particular African American woman was yelling and waving her hand in one of the young woman’s faces. The young woman placed her hand up in defense and the African American woman started freaking out saying that the young woman laid hands on her and wanted to fight. She justified her violent hand waving by stating that she never actually touched the young woman.

The pro-choice Asian woman made a comment to a pro-life woman who was also Asian, she stated that she was surprised and disappointed that she would stand with a bunch of white people that have no intentions of helping people like her.

This was so disappointing to me since we are fighting for people that are discriminated against such as Asians, African Americans, etc., and we also fight for the completely defenseless unborn. I had never protested or done anything like what I did that night and it was physically and emotionally draining. I was eventually called into the building to speak and left almost immediately after that.

(From Emily)

We arrived an hour before the start of the meeting, and there were already several pro-life and pro-abortion advocates waiting outside the Brighton Town Hall. While I waited for my turn to speak to the board members, I joined a line of people from both “sides” along the road, holding signs in peaceful protest to the people driving by.

At first the peace was upheld, but then certain members from both parties engaged in some arguing and shouting. Most pro-life people were respectful, but many pro-choice people were not. One transgender pro-choice woman yelled all sorts of accusations at us and repeatedly used foul language and gestures. In response to a pro-life man’s sign, she asked “how will love end abortion”, but when a pregnant pro-life woman tried to answer her, she repeatedly cut this woman off and pointed fingers, waving her sign and yelling. This same woman engaged in all sorts of disrespectful gestures such as turning her back to us and twerking.

Another pro-abortion man showed up with a megaphone and stated that he would personally stick his hands up a woman's vagina to pull out a 8-month old "fetus". We began chanting "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Planned Parenthood has got to go" in order to overpower the man's graphic speech. The police moved closer and this man was shut down.

The aggressiveness picked up a little over an hour into the peaceful protest, especially when a group of young pro-Planned Parenthood women arrived all at once. These women stood next to me and four other women my age, and proceeded to raise their voices at us and accuse us of not caring about issues such as low wages, issues that were irrelevant to the reason we were protesting that night. While I do work for an organization that opposes sex trafficking and economic justice for women, we were there solely to protest abortion and to prevent the construction of another Planned Parenthood Clinic which would result in more abortion procedures.

I don't recall the more aggressive women saying much about the abortion topic other than telling us if we were raped and became pregnant, that our parents would not want to keep the child. Personally I know for a fact that my getting an abortion would devastate my parents way more than if I were to get pregnant before marriage.

We did our best to ignore them but stand firm, but when one black girl stated "girls like you never get raped", I calmly told her she had no idea who has been raped and who hasn't. They asked us several times if we had ever been raped, and one of the pro-life women standing near me had in fact been raped, although understandably she did not say so at the time. These women proceeded to attack us for being white-skinned, calling us privileged and assuming we were all upper-middle class when in fact each of us works our tails off for our futures.

They spoke to us like we were inferior human beings and acted like we were young girls here with our parents, not fully grown women. We were called racist when they were the ones attacking our skin color. In addition, in our eyes the way Planned Parenthood does abortions IS racist. At one point a girl was putting her hands in my face and when I put my hand up in front of my own face in defense, she accused me of touching her and freaked out and got her friends riled up.

After an hour of dealing with these young women getting aggressive and really in our space, I got called in to speak to the board members. I was mentally and emotionally exhausted after the two hours outside, so I went home as soon as I finished my speech and was interviewed by the news. I heard many other stories from people later on, including that the pro-choice people vandalized half of our signs.

One last thing I will never forget is that in light of the childish proceedings of the night, one older pro-choice woman said to me: "I can't wait until YOU grow up."

THE COWARDS AND THE COURAGEOUS – (Anonymous Testimony)

Assembling

It began peacefully. As I carried the signs in from my car and laid them on the flagpole, I noticed a pro-lifer sharing a positive experience with a “pink shirt” as I call them. Positive experiences were short-lived, however.

Pink shirts started to line up the runway of the Town Hall and the street in front. We decided stand next to them along the side of the street as well. Both pink shirts and pro-lifers continued pour – pink shirts to the left facing the street, and pro-lifers to the right. It appeared to us that pro-lifers outnumbered the pink shirts based on what we could see. We had more along the side of the street and more across the street on the opposite side. From about 6pm to 7:30 pm, it was fairly civil – just all of us flashing our signs to the drivers passing by.

Angry Man Angry for No Reason

The civility did not last too long. First, there was a man dressed raggedy who brought a giant speaker and microphone and sat down on the pro-life side. At first it sounded like he was screaming Biblical scripture, but we soon realized he was completely against us. I don't recall exactly what he was saying, but it was loud, forceful and obnoxious. Ironically, a woman carrying a “Pray to End Abortion” sign decided to get right in front of him and stand close to him. It was an interesting sight to be seen—a woman standing her pro-life ground against a pro-choice man.

What did she do to you?

Sometime before or after this, we noticed a small group of pink shirts crossing the streets. They were joining our pro-life friends. One pro-choice woman with black hair who looked Hispanic tried to block another pro-life woman carrying a large sign with aborted babies. She basically moved in front of her. The pro-life lady moved and the Hispanic lady followed. The pro-life lady moved again, and the Hispanic lady kept following her. It seemed they got in a little spat trying to lose each other. The pro-life lady was older than the other lady and stood alone in her spot along the street. She was just carrying her sign and the Hispanic lady kept trying to follow and block her. It was extremely rude and uncalled for. I felt sorry for the pro-life woman. This same woman would get into a couple other spats with the obnoxious group of younger pink shirts later on in the night.

First Time Cheerleaders

What may have sparked an angry mob of young pink shirts coming at us... was our chants. Gabby and I wanted to do a couple chants to “hype” the crowd up as they

say, and so Gabby thought of some great chants. She then proceeded to go down the line of pro-lifers and teach them the chants. What a superstar!

When she came back, we started the chants. They included

- Hey hey, ho ho, Planned Parenthood has got to go!
- Right to Life, Right to Life, Right to Life
- Equality, Non-Violence, and non-Discrimination

For the first one, most of the pro-lifers joined us and we were quite loud! However, as the chants got a bit more complicated to understand, it was primarily me, Gabby, Madeline, Emily, Rachel, and a couple moms next to us chanting. We were still very loud and able to be heard, though.

This chanting is really what made the pink shirts mad. Not only did they start trying to chant against us (however they miserably failed in comparison), but it also sparked a mob of angry liberals. Those angry liberals did not stop for the rest of the night...

Know Nothing's Take Over

They didn't really take over, but this is when a young group of the pink shirts started to get in our faces. I first noticed them targeting a man that was standing next to us – a tall, Catholic man who was talking with Madeline for a while. They first started to argue with him most likely because he was a man and looked vulnerable. In his encounter with them, he was feeding them and egging him on. He was not trying to avoid them whatsoever. It was this occurrence where we first encountered the “angry mob” as I will refer to them. They all looked like they were in their 20's and included:

- Leader: Woman who screamed at us the most, very mean, and threatening with hand movements
- Her Sidekick: Woman who was the second loudest, second meanest, racist towards us, & unknowledgeable
- Their posse: Besides the two main characters above, their posse consisted of other woman decked in tie die shirts, braids, leather jackets, and other trending related styles.

In Between the Threats

Since the first guy that attacked was standing next to us, they decided their next target would be Emily and Madeline. They started screaming in Emily and Madeline's face who were doing absolutely nothing to get their attention. They were ranting at

first about us just being white and having privilege and money. The African American woman got extremely close to Emily's face and was pointing a finger right in front of her nose. Emily put her hand up to block her own left cheek because of how close she was getting to her and the African American woman then accused Emily of nudging her with her elbow.

The irony: they were the ones screaming and getting close to us – threatening violence essentially - and yet they accused Emily of doing just that when all she was doing was putting her hand in front of her face out of probably FEAR of them lashing out physically.

I tried my best to avoid interacting with them out of fear as well. However, when they got close to Emily and Madeline, I told them,

“You're getting too close.” They laughed and mocked me about it over and over.

I don't recall the exact sequence of what was said. Besides white privilege, they were ranting about rape. They kept saying:

“Have you ever been raped?” over and over and over.

Rachel, to the left of me, was offended. She was raped and yet they assume me, Emily, Madeline, and Rachel have never been raped based on our color. Emily did talk back to the African American and Asian women coming at us but I do not recall what she said.

They did not bother me much. They did make a lot of mean comments throughout the night, but I ignored them. I didn't really care to draw their attention. They did try on me though.

After they tried on me, they also tried on Rachel. Rachel simply said,

“I don't feel like talking to you,” and through they kept trying, she ignored them as I did.

Eventually, they made their way down the line to Gabby. They started to scream about her having disadvantages because she was Asian. This infuriated me, but Gabby was impressive. As they started to attack her, she held her ground and started a conversation with the African American and Asian woman. It actually looked like a very good conversation. They stopped screaming. When I asked Gabby about it, she said she just talked to them like they were human. She was understanding to their comments, though she still argued against them.

What I found interesting was the fact that when Gabby asked, “When do you think life begins?” the Asian woman said in response “I’m not gonna answer that question.”

The angry mob made their way past us and then started bothering the moms next to us. One of the moms argued with them for a while. Sarah soon stepped in and had a loud argument with a different pro-choice lady. This one was part of the angry mob but she was less of the center of attention until she encountered Sarah. Their discussion looked quite heated. Sarah seemed to be holding her ground as well though.

Amy told me to start recording because of how heated it got with Sarah, and when I did, the African American woman went,

“I’m gonna slap her. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THEM RECORDING A AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN.” I kept recording and the African American woman shoved her sign in front of my camera wherever I went.

Time for Us to Speak

The angry mob continued slandering, bullying and laughing at us throughout the night. But, when we all went to speak, we really didn’t see much of what they were doing. After Emily and Madeline spoke, they were gone for a while and I didn’t know where they went. I was asking a couple people where they went and the African American woman yelled

“They left! They gone!” They were actually just being interviewed in front of the town hall.

Once I was called, I asked Ben to please watch the pile of signs next to my things. He tried his best, but apparently as soon as I left, they took an African American marker and drew over a lot of the signs. I was extremely upset when I saw that. They did that purposely after hearing me ask someone to watch them.

Deciding it was time to leave

After I discovered the violated signs, I gathered all my things up in a different spot and decided to focus my energy more on listening to speeches. I mingled with some pro-lifers and listened to some speeches.

It was getting dark, the mosquitoes were out, and pro-lifers started to go home. The pink shirts, however, were being less angry and just more obnoxious. LGBTQ pink shirts started twerking close to us while we were just standing around listening to the meeting. I said to them,

“Noone wants to see that,” and they responded,

“Well, you’re not moving!”

I saw Amy talk to the cops about our violated signs. She showed them to the cops, and they then walked over to the angry mob. They surrounded the cops and it looked as if the cops were taking notes on a pad. I tried asking the documenter/photographer what the cops were saying and one of the members from the angry mob shouted,

“Don’t talk to her!” right when the photographer was about to tell me something.

He remained silent with me after that, and I just said,

“Nice” And walked away.

I mingled a bit more with some pro-lifers as it was getting darker. Eventually, I asked people to help me take signs back to my car, so Ben and the youngest Hayes daughter helped me. As we were just talking and putting signs in my trunk, a pro-choicer yelled to Ben something like,

“You look like a b**,” – something related to the fact that he was shirt and had a girlish figure.**

“Why do you have to stoop down to these levels?” I responded.

That was the last of the comments we received from the angry mob. All in all, the pink shirts were obnoxious, vulgar, unknowledgeable, and nasty. They were bullying us for our color, our income, and our ethnicity. They had no composure, and they were posture was threatening more than just an argument. They were shouting things like “JESUS LOVES THE GAY,” and other things about Jesus being okay with abortion. Their comments were based on nothing factual.

Many of the younger pink shirts remained there as we all left. However, none of us felt like it was safe to be there with it being so dark. By the time I left, near all of the pro-lifers left except for those in the meeting.

I will never understand the cowardice of the people who decided to sit silent and listen to the bullying, twerking crowd outside.