

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aurora Officials Acknowledge Ordinance Blunder in Issuing Zoning Permits for Planned Parenthood “Mega Clinic”

**City Has Been Relying on the Wrong Ordinance Throughout Controversy Putting
Spotlight on Tomorrow Evening’s Zoning Board Hearing;
Lawyers to Aurora, “Stop Withholding Public Documents!”**

Aurora, IL—City of Aurora officials quietly acknowledged a crucial mistake regarding a zoning ordinance on which they had relied during earlier investigations into the nation’s largest Planned Parenthood facility at 3051 E. New York St. in Aurora, Illinois. In two recent motions to dismiss an appeal by Aurora citizens to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Aurora’s chief lawyer began referring to ordinance 093-124 rather than to section 093-123, which had expired and which they had been citing previously. In addition, the city cited the wrong ordinance as a basis for favorable zoning determinations in a pair of investigations undertaken by two touted zoning experts, private lawyers acting on behalf of the city, which led to Mayor Tom Weisner announcing the renewal of Planned Parenthood’s temporary occupancy permit (now due to expire December 17th). If the proper ordinance had been cited and complied with, Planned Parenthood should never have opened. The zoning determinations, on the basis of which Planned Parenthood has been open and operating, are being challenged by Aurora citizens, represented by lawyers from the Thomas More Society, a public interest law firm based in Chicago. On Wednesday, December 12, the Aurora Zoning Board of Appeals will meet to hear these and other issues.

“City officials are not being candid with Aurora’s citizens. They made a major mistake and they are trying to keep it out of the public eye despite compelling evidence of egregious zoning violations,” states Tom Brejcha, Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Society of Chicago. “In fact, they have been stonewalling and barring our access to critical public documents. The citizens of Aurora should be questioning what their civic leaders are trying to cover up.”

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Brejcha and his legal team (Peter Breen, special counsel, and Richard Baker of the Chicago law firm, Mauck & Baker) have repeatedly sought a complete disclosure and production of all public documents related to the zoning approval process, but city officials persist in withholding pertinent staff notes, drawings, and correspondence with Planned Parenthood representatives and others. All this follows in the wake of the non-profit entity, Planned Parenthood, coming into Aurora under false pretences, using the name of a subsidiary, the ostensibly “for-profit,” taxpaying entity, Gemini Office Development (“GOD”). The zoning for this location was “B-B” or “Business Boulevard,” which does not permit non-profit health-related facilities under *any* circumstances. By pretending to be building a taxpaying, for profit medical facility, GOD and Planned Parenthood evaded zoning laws that Aurora purports to enforce against its citizens, fairly and even-handedly.

“Planned Parenthood has defied Aurora’s laws, and the city’s current administration seems to be determined to let them get away with it,” states Brejcha. “They have allowed a tax-exempt, non-profit abortion facility to come into Aurora illegally, without the knowledge or informed consent of the public and without the same scrutiny Aurora citizens would receive for putting up a gazebo in their backyard!”

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