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8 January 2016

Mayor Mitch Landrieu
City of New Orleans Mayor's Office
1300 Perdido St.
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mayor Landrieu,

In response to reactions from some City Council members and pro-abortion organizations to our community awareness banners (posted in conjunction with New Orleans Right to Life Educational Foundation Inc) on St. Charles Avenue, we have been in contact with Ms. Catherine Nguyen in the New Orleans Public Works Office regarding the status of our banners. This morning Ms. Nguyen said she had received a phone call from the Mayor's Office asking her to inform our organizations that the banners should be removed. Ms. Nguyen was unable to provide us any further details.

As a result of this conversation, Louisiana Right to Life is reaching out to your office for clarification on this issue. We have three main questions. First, is the Mayor's Office requesting or demanding the removal of the banners? Second, what actions does the Mayor's Office intend to take if the banners are not removed by us prior to the expiration of our valid permit? Third, if the Mayor's Office is demanding removal of the banners despite our valid permit, what reason is given for that demand?

From the very beginning of the approval process whereby we received our initial permit to install these banners, New Orleans Right to Life Educational Foundation Inc and Louisiana Right to Life has complied with every request by the City of New Orleans. Therefore, at this time, our organizations have no intention of removing the banners prior to Jan. 31, 2016, as per our valid agreement with the City of New Orleans. I have attached the Letter of Approval that our office received from the City on Nov. 3, 2015, prior to our installing the banners on St. Charles Avenue, and as you can see, there was nothing misleading or fraudulent in our application. The permit was granted by the City in full knowledge of what organization was sponsoring the banners and what message would be depicted on these banners, and we believe our valid permit should be honored.

New Orleans Right to Life Educational Foundation Inc and Louisiana Right to Life request that these questions surrounding our banners and their possible removal be answered in writing as soon as possible in order to prevent any further confusion. We look forward to a resolution of these issues that respects both the valid agreement we entered into with the City of New Orleans as well as our constitutionally-protected Freedom of Speech.

Yours Truly,

Deanna Wallace
Legislative Director
Louisiana Right to Life

