

PRO-LIFE ACTION LEAGUE

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To the Honorable Thomas Weisner and Aldermen of the City of Aurora,

Yesterday you received a letter from Steve Trombley, CEO of Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area, in which Mr. Trombley defended Planned Parenthood's dealings with the City, and then went on to make a series of accusations against the Pro-Life Action League and my father, Joe Scheidler.

I will leave it to the independent investigator to determine whether Planned Parenthood is guilty of breaking the law during the permit process—whether, for example, their appearance as one with Gemini Development Corp. on May 7, 2007 before the board of the Illinois Finance Authority in a downtown Chicago office justifies their hiding the Planned Parenthood name before the Planning and Development Committee here in Aurora on November 16, 2006 and throughout the permit process.

But Mr. Trombley's accusations about my father and the Pro-Life Action League demand a rebuttal.

For the record, Joe Scheidler and the Pro-Life Action League have always opposed any use of violence whatsoever in the fight against abortion. My father founded the League in 1980 to bring the non-violent methods of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—with whom he marched in Alabama in 1965—to the pro-life movement.

My father has never praised anyone for engaging in violence, and the only "crimes" on his record are a few misdemeanors from over twenty years ago. He is a peaceful man.

Mr. Trombley spoke of the 1998 jury trial that found my father guilty of RICO violations. First, that case, *NOW v. Scheidler*, was not about clinic violence, as U.S. District Court Judge David Coar emphasized from the beginning. None of the alleged acts of violence that Mr. Trombley lists was ever even attributed to Joe Scheidler, nor was any of them ever "proven at trial" as Mr. Trombley claims.

Moreover, Mr. Trombley fails to mention that the 1998 jury decision against my father was overturned by the U. S. Supreme Court in 2003 in an 8-1 decision, and again in 2006 in an 8-0 decision after NOW sought to prevent the 2003 decision being implemented.

Once again, Mr. Trombley and Planned Parenthood have failed to disclose all the relevant facts of the case. This is their idea of honesty and "full disclosure"—half truths, innuendo and slander.

Finally, as to Mr. Trombley's suggestion that the workers at Planned Parenthood have something to fear from the pro-life community of Aurora, I believe our conduct to date speaks for itself. Fox Valley Families Against Planned Parenthood have earned nothing but praise from the Aurora Police Department. We have complied with all their directives, even when we believed them to be unfair.

We have been peaceful. We have broken no laws. And we have been honest.

Yours sincerely,



Eric J. Scheidler