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Contact: Sarah Zagorski

504.835.6520

[sarah@prolifelouisiana.org](mailto:sarah@prolifelouisiana.org)

## **New Planned Parenthood Facility On Claiborne Avenue to Perform Abortion** *Nola Needs Peace Coalition, Including Many Leaders and Churches, Addresses Situation*

**New Orleans, LA** - The NOLA Needs Peace Coalition, a growing group of churches, leaders, and citizens committed to building a peaceful New Orleans without more abortion, has formed to address the Planned Parenthood facility slated to be built at 4636 S. Claiborne Avenue. According to Planned Parenthood, the \$4.2 million 7,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open in 2014.

From legislative testimony and their own material, Planned Parenthood has indicated they will perform abortions for the first time in Louisiana at the Claiborne Avenue facility. Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion business in the U.S., performed 333,964 abortions in 2011.

Benjamin Clapper, a leader of the NOLA Needs Peace Coalition, stated, "Across the nation, the facts are clear: more Planned Parenthood means more abortion. Without question, a Planned Parenthood abortion facility on Claiborne Avenue will increase the number of abortions in New Orleans. New Orleans needs peace, not more abortion."

While Planned Parenthood does offer services other than abortion, Clapper mentioned, "these services are readily available in New Orleans. We are working with groups and churches to see these services better promoted."

Abby Johnson, Louisiana native and former Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast facility director in Texas, commented, "At one time, I thought Planned Parenthood was good for women. However, as I saw first-hand, their primary interest is to sell more abortion rather than evaluate what the woman really needs. As a native Louisianian, I want the people of New Orleans to know that more Planned Parenthood means more abortion."

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of the Archdiocese of New Orleans stated: "For the past few years, the Archdiocese of New Orleans has focused on bringing an end to violence, murder, and racism in New Orleans. A Planned Parenthood abortion facility will take us further away from the peaceful future New Orleans needs. Violence is violence, whether on our streets or in the womb. I encourage people of faith and goodwill to stand for peace over violence in all its forms."

Pastor Fred Luter Jr., Pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church and President of the Southern Baptist Convention, said: "Growing up in New Orleans, I've seen how much violence hurts our community. I also know the struggles our citizens have to access genuine and affordable health care. While Planned Parenthood claims to be a genuine health care option for women, what many people don't know is that Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion business. By increasing the number of abortions in New Orleans, Planned Parenthood will damage the lives of the women, families, and unborn babies of our city."

Dorinda Bordlee, an attorney and leader of the NOLA Women for Peace and Life, stated, "Planned Parenthood uses a tricky calculation to claim that abortion accounts for only 3% of their 'services,' but simple math shows that abortion accounts for over 50% of their non-governmental service revenue. Moreover, two long-time former employees of Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast have filed federal lawsuits alleging millions of dollars in Medicaid fraud. Make no mistake. Planned Parenthood is an abortion business that profits from the sexual exploitation of women and girls."

The Nola Needs Peace Coalition will continue to educate the New Orleans community on Planned Parenthood through a number of ways, including hosting two upcoming events on May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup> that will feature many community leaders, such as Pastor Fred Luter, Jr. Abby Johnson, Archbishop Aymond, Pastor Antoine Barriere, Mary Matalin, and others. Learn more at [www.NolaNeedsPeace.com/Gathering](http://www.NolaNeedsPeace.com/Gathering).

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To obtain a press kit including quotes from community leaders and event details, visit [www.NolaNeedsPeace.com/Press](http://www.NolaNeedsPeace.com/Press)

### **NOLA Needs Peace Coalition Members:**

Louisiana Right to Life • Bioethics Defense Fund • Castle Rock Community Church • Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans • Celebration Church • Cornerstone Christian Center • Cornerstone Full Gospel Fellowship • Edgewater Baptist Church • Franklin Avenue Baptist Church • Gideon Christian Fellowship • Household of Faith • Israelite Missionary Baptist Church • Louisiana Family Forum • NOLA Women for Peace and Life • The Root 504 Project • The Vine Church New Orleans • Urban Reach Ministries