



August 11, 2020

Hon. Mayor Hogsett
City of Indianapolis
City-County Building, Suite 2501
200 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Via Online Contact Page and FedEx (tracking number 771231639941)

Re Request to Paint on Street

Dear Mayor Hogsett,

[Having opened the streets of your city](#) for public expression, Students for Life of America (SFLA) and The Frederick Douglass Foundation (FDF) request the opportunity to add our voices to those concerned about the treatment of people of color in America. Black Lives do matter, born and preborn, as too many people are lost in America today from causes that should be addressed and prevented for their disproportionate impact on minority communities. As the city [facilitated the painting](#) of "Black Lives Matter" for the [expression of local free speech](#), we want to add our message in the community, celebrating that **BLACK PREBORN LIVES MATTER**. We are asking you, Mayor Hogsett, to respond promptly to our permit with permission to add our message in favor of the dignity of Black preborn life to the public forum of the city streets, which you have opened to others.

SFLA requests permission to paint Black Pre-Born Lives Matter on the 8500 block of Georgetown Road at 6 o'clock in the morning on September 12, 2020, to celebrate the beautiful children with endless potential who are the future of their community and deserve the opportunity to make their mark in the world.

As an organization of nearly 1,300 groups on middle and high school, college and university, medical and law school campuses in all 50 states, SFLA works daily alongside the generation most targeted for abortions. But it should shock people to know that abortion disproportionately takes aim at minority communities. Though only [13 percent](#) of the female population, African American women make up [38 percent](#) of all abortions tracked, according to the CDC.

FDF, with their state affiliates across the country, stand for and with Black America, including the most vulnerable among this population, those black babies still in the womb. As a public policy and educational organization FDF is a collection of pro-active individuals committed to developing innovative and new approaches to today's problems, including the systemic racism of Planned Parenthood and their founder.

Planned Parenthood's founder Margaret Sanger [wrote of her intentions](#) for birth control, "We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population." It is not surprising that the organization she founded continues to target women of color for their population control efforts.

In [Indiana](#), where the abortion rate is rising, and disproportionately more black babies are aborted, the deadly legacy of abortion has robbed the city of tremendous potential, and it must come to an end to ensure the city's future.

The First Amendment and state and local licensing laws contemplate an event like this. SFLA has timely applied for a right-of-way permit for this event through the Accela Citizens Portal. SFLA has also timely applied for a special event permit for 250 persons or more and the restriction (but not blocking) of streets. No Mass Gathering permit is required from ISDH because fewer than 5,000 persons will be in attendance. The code does not prohibit a meeting or assembly on premises commonly used for discussion of subjects of public interest. SFLA has timely applied for a special event permit outlining our plan of peaceful demonstration. SFLA's compliance with permit requirements managed by the City of Indianapolis requires our application be approved. This letter and SFLA's permit application clearly establish how far SFLA's painting demonstration is from an unlawful assembly as described above.


You must allow SFLA and FDF to paint its "BLACK PREBORN LIVES MATTER" message. Your original decision to paint "Black Lives Matter" on the street may very well be government speech. However, your decision to allow private citizens [to paint squirrels](#) for public safety opened the streets up as a public forum. You are not permitted to discriminate on the basis of viewpoint in making determinations relating to public assemblies in public fora. The message of the preborn will not be silenced.

The Pro-Life Generation cannot be silent on the horrors of abortion. As [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." We are asking to make our voices heard on behalf of the preborn, so that they will have hope and a future.

For Life,



Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life of America
Students for Life Action



Reverend Dean Nelson
Chairman
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