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[Columbia Christians for Life](#) ( [CCL](#) )  
aka Christians for Life and Liberty ( CLL )  
Columbia, South Carolina  
April 19, 2020 / Revised April 22, 2020

## Columbia, SC

Was **MIS-USE** of Police by the City of Columbia to Force Pro-Lifers from the Public Right-of-Way outside Planned Parenthood killing center on April 7 a case of unjust **Political Discrimination** ?

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Multiple Columbia Police Department vehicles and law enforcement officers came Tuesday morning, April 7 to force several pro-lifers to leave the public right-of-way outside Columbia's Planned Parenthood (PP) killing center, 2712 Middleburg Drive, Suite #107, Columbia, SC

From 1978 to 2018, **PLANNED PARENTHOOD** in Columbia has **murdered** over **52,000 unborn children**.

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**Democrat [Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin](#) [spoke at Planned Parenthood Action Fund Forum for Democratic Candidates for U.S. President on June 22, 2019, held at the USC Alumni Center across the street from SC Democratic Party State Convention in Columbia Metro Convention Center](#)**

C-SPAN.org  
'[Planned Parenthood Candidates Forum, Part 1](#)' [ with transcript, @ 7 minutes video time ]  
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?461882-1/planned-parenthood-candidates-forum-part-1>  
Columbia, SC - June 22, 2019

Nationally, **Planned Parenthood** [reported](#) murdering over 330,000 children in the womb *in one year* in the United States as per this 2017-2018 [annual report](#) [p. 27]. As a prominent [public](#) [begin @ 7 min.] advocate of **mass-murderers Planned Parenthood, Stephen "Steve" Benjamin is Biblically and morally unfit to hold the position of mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina.**

"He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."  
2 Samuel 23:3b, [KJV](#)

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FITS News / CORONAVIRUS

**Columbia South Carolina Police: Dangerous Political Discrimination Amid Coronavirus Crackdown**

Peaceful pro-life protesters cited, ordered to disperse and threatened with arrest following lawful demonstration ...

<https://www.fitsnews.com/2020/04/08/columbia-south-carolina-police-dangerous-political-discrimination-amid-coronavirus-crackdown/>

April 8, 2020 [ excerpts, emphasis added ]

"[ **SC Governor** ] **McMaster** spokesman **Bryan Symmes** told [ the *Post and Courier* reporter ] that the city's enforcement action **"certainly seems to be politically charged"** – and was **"the kind of selective enforcement that makes people lose faith in government."**

**"The discriminatory action taken ... by city police is reprehensible – to say nothing of unconstitutional.** And as Symmes correctly put it, this is precisely the sort of "emergency authority enforcement" that causes people to distrust the true motivations of their leaders in times of crisis."

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**Democrat Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin spoke at Planned Parenthood Action Fund Forum for Democratic Candidates for U.S. President on June 22, 2019 held at USC Alumni Center across the street from SC Democratic Party State Convention in Columbia Metro Convention Center**

COLUMBIA CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE

**PRESS RELEASE**

Christian Witness Opposing Planned Parenthood Democratic Presidential Candidates Child-Murder-by-'Abortion' **Forum**, USC Alumni Center, 900 Senate St. ( **Fittingly**, located two blocks from **Old Slave Market** site ), Columbia, SC - **June 22, 2019, 12 noon - 2 pm**

FOR RELEASE: June 20, 2019

<http://christianlifeandliberty.net/2019-06-20-Christian-Witness-Outside-Planned-Parenthood-Democrat-Presidential-Candidates-Forum-June-22.pdf>

COLUMBIA CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE

[ **Report** ]

(Photos) Columbia, SC - Christian Witness Opposing **Planned Parenthood** Democratic Presidential Candidates Child-Murder-by-'Abortion' Forum, USC Alumni Center, 900 Senate St., Columbia, SC - **June 22, 2019, 12 noon - 2 pm**

<http://christianlifeandliberty.net/2019-06-24-Photos-Columbia-SC-Christian-Witness-Opposing-Planned-Parenthood-June-22-2019.pdf>

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C-SPAN.org

'**Planned Parenthood Candidates Forum, Part 1**' [ with transcript, @ 7 minutes video time ]

USC Alumni Center, 900 Senate St., Columbia, SC - **June 22, 2019**

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?461882-1/planned-parenthood-candidates-forum-part-1>

Video: 1:45:09

**Pro-Planned-Parenthood Democrat Mayor Steve Benjamin** spoke and introduced the **President and CEO of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund:**

[ Start @ 7 minutes video time, excerpts ]

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[ Transcribed excerpts, emphasis, comments added: ]

**Pro-child-murder by "abortion", Pro- mass-murderers Planned Parenthood, Democrat Steve Benjamin, Columbia, SC mayor:**

"Good morning **Planned Parenthood**. Are we psyched ? Are we so excited about being here to change the arc of this democracy [sic] ? We live in the greatest democratic nation in the history of the world, because we protect your freedoms, your freedoms [sic - there is no "freedom" to commit child-murder !]"

"And some of you had a chance to be at the dinner last night. I had literally 90 seconds to speak. And I think the biggest applause line I got was simply that **I'm a Democrat because I believe a woman's body, is a woman's body, is a woman's body.**" [ applause ]

"... South Carolina [sic], just like the rest of this country [sic], believes that women should be in charge of your own bodies." [ applause ]

"You're here [to] demand that our [Democratic] presidential candidates understand that, and vow to protect your rights. **And I'm all in for that, all in for that.**" [ applause ]

[ And now **pro-Planned-Parenthood Democrat Mayor Steve Benjamin** praises [mass-murderers Planned Parenthood](#): ]

"Before I make my introduction, I do want to say a few words about **Planned Parenthood**, the nation's leading provider [ sic - perpetrator ] of sexual and reproductive health care and education [sic - of child-murder by "abortion, [reporting their Murder for profit of over 330,000 children in the womb in one year in the United States in this 2017-2018 annual report](#) (p. 27)]. As a national healthcare [sic - child-murder by "abortion] organization, with over 600 health [sic] centers and a presence in all 50 states, **including right here in Columbia, Planned Parenthood** provides vital community health [sic] to 2.4 million women, men, and non-binary [ sic - use of this ridiculous term illustrates Steve Benjamin's perverse worldview not grounded in the Bible, and therefore not grounded in true medical science and biological fact ] people, youth, and families every single year. One in three women [applause], one in three American women have been patients at **Planned Parenthood**, one in three, a crucial portion of our American healthcare infrastructure, is what Planned Parenthood is [sic, and sick !]. And **Planned Parenthood Action Fund** exists to protect those health [sic] centers, that care [sic], and those patients."

"One of the privileges of being Mayor is I have the opportunity to introduce your fearless leader. Dr. Leana Wen is the President and CEO of the **Planned Parenthood Action Fund**. [ cont'd ]

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**SO WAS IT THE PRO-CHILD-MURDER BY "ABORTION", PRO-PLANNED-PARENTHOOD MAYOR OF COLUMBIA STEVE BENJAMIN WHO WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE UNLAWFUL MIS-USE OF THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 7 WHEN CPD OFFICERS WERE FORCED TO BREAK THE LAW, AND VIOLATE THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES OF FREEDOM OF PEACEABLE ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OF SEVERAL PROLIFE PEOPLE ??? SEVERAL CPD OFFICERS, INCLUDING TWO LT'S FORCED SEVERAL PROLIFE PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OUTSIDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S CHILD-MURDER CENTER IN COLUMBIA AT 2712 MIDDLEBURG DRIVE, SUITE #107, COLUMBIA, SC, UNDER THREAT OF BEING TICKETED. WAS MAYOR STEVE BENJAMIN THE MAIN PROPONENT OF THIS OPPRESSION, LAWLESSNESS, AND ABUSE OF POWER BY THE CITY OF COLUMBIA ??? IF SO, WHO AND HOW IS STEVE BENJAMIN GOING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS LAWBREAKING AND CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ???**

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The [Office of the SC Attorney General](#) had already issued an [Opinion](#) March 27 stating in effect the City of Columbia Stay-at-Home emergency ordinance was likely illegal:

*The State*

'SC cities' stay-at-home orders during coronavirus are likely illegal, AG says'

<https://www.thestate.com/news/coronavirus/article241558266.html>

MARCH 27, 2020 [ Excerpts ]

"The state Attorney General's Office says cities and counties in South Carolina have limited powers during states of emergency, raising questions about the legality of stay-at-home orders issued by Columbia and Charleston this week."

"The Attorney General's opinion cited a state law that gives the governor extraordinary powers during a state of emergency powers which preempt that of local and county governments."

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**Office of the Attorney General**

**State of South Carolina**

**Solicitor General Opinion, Robert Cook**

**March 27, 2020**

<http://2hsvz0l74ah31vgcm16peuy12tz.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/02245198.pdf>

[ Excerpt ]

**Conclusion:** "In conclusion, consistent with our 1980 opinion, we reaffirm that local government cannot exercise the emergency powers delegated to the Governor by the General Assembly. ... Therefore, counties and municipalities should be aware that any unauthorized exercise of such emergency powers could subject these political subdivisions to liability at the behest of a private citizen with requisite legal standing."

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WACH FOX 57

**'Columbia mayor addresses AG's remarks about stay at home order'**

<https://wach.com/news/local/columbia-mayor-addresses-ags-remarks-about-stay-at-home-order>

March 28th 2020 [ Excerpts, emphasis added ]

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH) -- The South Carolina Attorney General made comments questioning the legality of stay at home orders for cities. Sunday, **Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin** addressed those remarks.

"His position on this issue is just flat out wrong," said **Mayor Benjamin**.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson claims local governments do not have the power to issue emergency orders like Columbia's stay at home order.

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The [Office of the Columbia City Attorney](#) had already written a letter March 26 (below) **TO COLUMBIA MAYOR STEVE BENJAMIN**, with reference to a [March 24 letter from the SC Attorney General to Mark Keel, Chief of the SC Law Enforcement Division \(SLED\)](#). The Columbia City Attorney said "the Attorney General for the State of South Carolina recognized the constitutional protections provided to religious activities". Furthermore, the Columbia City Attorney wrote\* that the SC Attorney General noted that "in case of conflict between the statute recently enacted by the Governor and fundamental constitutional liberties, those liberties must prevail." [ \* The exact quote is: "in case of conflict between the statute and fundamental constitutional liberties, those liberties must prevail." ] The Columbia City Attorney then stated, "Accordingly, the City will also recognize the fundamental constitutional liberties afforded to our citizens."

**Office of the Attorney General**

**State of South Carolina**

**Solicitor General Robert Cook Letter to Mark Keel, Chief of the SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED)**

**March 24, 2020**

<http://2hsvz0l74ah31vgcm16peuy12tz.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-03-24-Letter-to-Chief-Keel-re-Section-16-7-10-02243232xD2C78-1.pdf>

[ Excerpt ]

"Some examples of these fundamental constitutional protections are the freedom of religion inherent in a church or other religious meeting, or a wedding or funeral; the constitutional protections of the family unit; and the freedom of assembly for political purposes. ... These enumerated examples are not an exhaustive or exclusive list."

Here is the Columbia City Attorney's March 26 letter **TO COLUMBIA MAYOR STEVE BENJAMIN:**

Office of the City Attorney

Post Office Box 667 • Columbia, SC 29202 • [\(803\) 737-4242](tel:(803)737-4242) • Fax [\(803\) 737-4250](tel:(803)737-4250)

March 26, 2020

Dear Mayor Benjamin:

You have asked whether the Emergency Order declaring a Stay Home Stay Safe for the City of Columbia applies to religious activities. In his March 24, 2020, letter to Chief Mark Keel, the Attorney General for the State of South Carolina recognized the constitutional protections provided to religious activities. The Attorney General noted that “in case of conflict between the statute recently enacted by the Governor and fundamental constitutional liberties, those liberties must prevail.” Accordingly, the City will also recognize the fundamental constitutional liberties afforded to our citizens.

The Emergency Order declaring a Stay Home Stay Safe for the City of Columbia does not restrict religious activities.

Sincerely,

T. A. Knox

Teresa A. Knox  
City Attorney

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*Nevertheless, despite these three documents described above:*

- 1) [March 24 Letter from the Office of the SC Attorney General by Solicitor General Robert Cook to Chief Keel, SLED, and](#)
- 2) **March 26 Letter from City of Columbia Attorney General to Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin [ above], and**
- 3) [March 27 Opinion from the Office of the SC Attorney General by Solicitor General Robert Cook.](#)

*... The Columbia Police Department went out to 2712 Middleburg Drive, Columbia on April 7, 2020 and used the City of Columbia Coronavirus Stay-At-Home Emergency Order ( [City Ordinance 2020-034](#)) to force several pro-lifers to leave public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood (PP) killing center, violating their God-given, unalienable rights protected by law under the First Amendment to US Constitution. These rights were violated by City of Columbia on April 7, MIS-USING law enforcement officers and forcing them to break the law, and violate citizens' fundamental constitutional rights !*

**SO WAS IT THE PRO-CHILD-MURDER BY "ABORTION", PRO-PLANNED-PARENTHOOD MAYOR OF COLUMBIA STEVE BENJAMIN WHO WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE UNLAWFUL MIS-USE OF THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 7 WHEN CPD OFFICERS WERE FORCED TO BREAK THE LAW, AND VIOLATE THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES OF FREEDOM OF PEACEABLE ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OF SEVERAL PROLIFE PEOPLE ???**

**WAS MAYOR STEVE BENJAMIN THE MAIN PROPONENT OF THIS OPPRESSION, LAWLESSNESS, AND ABUSE OF POWER BY THE CITY OF COLUMBIA ??? IF SO, WHO AND HOW IS STEVE BENJAMIN GOING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS LAWBREAKING, POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION, AND CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ???**

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