

Metro Council Safety Committee July 19, 2017

Points for a Safety Zone
EMW Women's Surgical Center

What we don't want in a Safety Zone...

Encroach on anyone's Freedom of Speech

Prevent patients from having conversations with anyone they choose to speak to

Prohibit pedestrians from walking on the public sidewalk

What we do want in a Safety Zone

Public safety from unwanted touching, shoving, or blocking while entering a woman's healthcare clinic

A Safety Zone large enough to prevent unsolicited physical contact or pamphleteering, while still being able to hold conversations if desired

Clear unobstructed visibility of entrances to benefit LMPD

EMW Women's Surgical Center has....

Been in regular contact with LMPD about security and has followed their advice

Upgraded their exterior and interior camera system

Painted clear lines where their property begins and the public sidewalk ends.

Expressed gratitude for Saturday morning presence of officers each week since July 2016

We have all seen this unusual event.



And this one we've seen too-This is not counseling.



This is a normal Saturday at the entrance. (7/8/17)



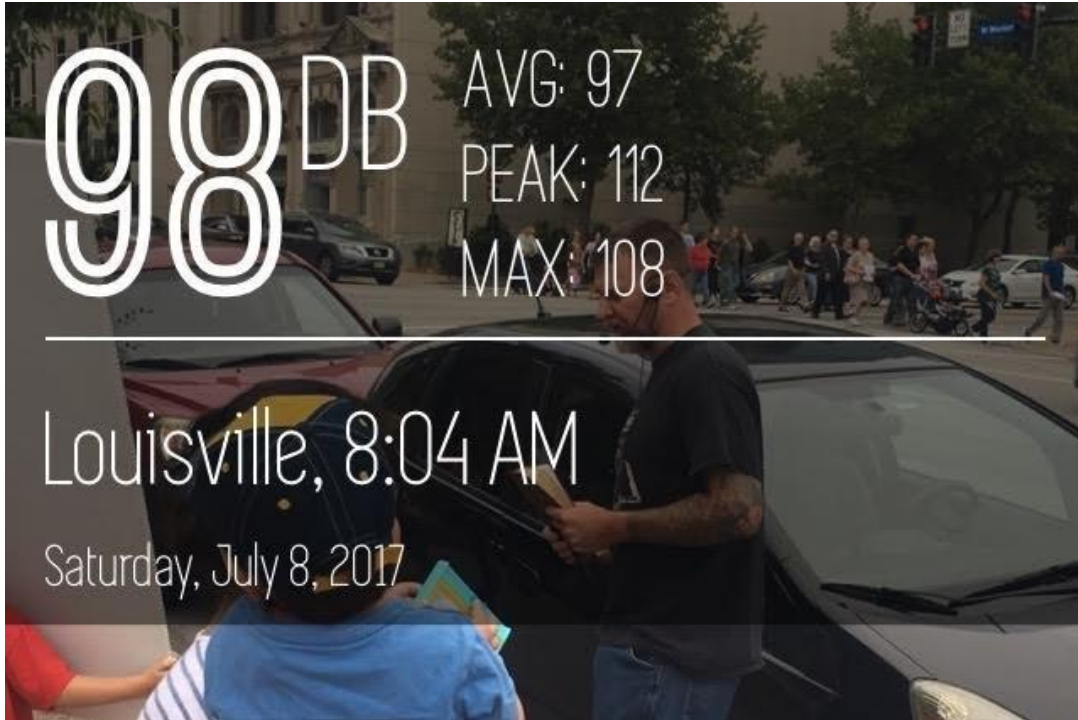
A different view of the entrance blocking. (7/8/17)



Even when it rains, this is still not counseling.



Do you need a loudspeaker to counsel?



Violence and Disruption Reports

July 2016-June 2017

Days clinic open 259

Number of Days Protesters Present 259

Total # Protesters Per Year 6250

Average # Protesters Per Month 521

Incidents Reported to Clinic Escorts 110

What were these incidents?

- 4 -Email/Internet Harassment
- 4 -Vandalism
- 27 -Trespassing
 - 4 -Invasion (entering the clinic)
- 10 -Blocking the entrance and sidewalk
 - 1 -Blockade (Sitting down at the entrance)
- 11 -Blockade Arrests
- 17 -Stalking
- 32 -Assault and Battery (next slide)

How many of these incidents were reported to LMPD?

11 - Reported to LMPD (next slide)

12 - Arrests

*Assault/Battery - These are Misdemeanor Assaults with Physical Contact. Since LMPD is only present on Saturdays, these normally are not reported because an officer will have to witness it to make charges.

What were those 11 reports to LMPD?

1. 7/1 Four LMPD officers arrived after calling about Ryan Minter assaulting escorts with a large sign at the entrance. Police told Ryan not to bend the sign over under the portico.
2. 7/2 Police present and needed to call them over twice for crowding and blocking the entrance.
3. 9/29 Ryan Minter pushing on 2 escorts at entrance
4. 11/8 Patient reported Joseph Spurgeon harassing them in parking lot. No action because patient inside when LMPD arrived in response.
5. 11/17 Homeless man, threatening escorts for 15 min and clinic called LMPD. LMPD witnessed him assaulting an escort and arrested him.
6. 11/25 Graffiti - not sure of arrest status
7. 12/17 Assault by companion on a protester who moved to block their entrance and was pushed by the companion. Report written but no charges filed.
8. 1/14 Patient called LMPD because KY OSA/P82 were harassing them in their car while waiting for door to open. No report filed.
9. 1/21 Assault by KY OSA/P82 member of escort. Report written but no charges filed.
10. 2/3 Police called when National OSA arrived about noise, blocking sidewalk-Loudspeakers turned down.
11. 5/13 LMPD called 6a for National OSA presence. Total squad cars sent 11. Total arrests 11.

Are the patients afraid of violence?

2658 -Anonymous Questionnaires Submitted by patients
from July 2016-June 2017

14 -Number of patients reporting no protesters present

1296 -Reported feeling scared, nervous or unsafe (48.76%)

531 -Reported they were afraid protesters would do
something to them.

(19.98%)

What questionnaire comments were left by patients?

658 -Comments were left by patients about the protesters.
(24.76%)

Samples-

I was afraid they would attack me.

The pushing made me scared.

I was somewhat concerned about someone being physically violent or aggressive to me because they were able to be so close to me.

What questionnaire comments were left by patients? (page 2)

I was mostly afraid of shootings or bombings at the clinic. I found it disturbing that they were right outside the door, so close to the building. I felt comfortable with the staff, but not entirely safe with them so close and seemingly able to enter any time.

One of them blocked my path and stepped on my foot causing me to twist my ankle. They are very aggressive and upset me and my support.

What questionnaire comments were left by patients? (page 3)

Crowd my personal space all at once, yell and scream.

Someone grabbed my arm

When I told them to leave me alone and they said "No", it made me feel as though they would physically try to make me turn around.

Put their hands on me. They were blocking my way so I couldn't go in. They're very intimidating.

All 658 Comments -Available and Will Be Sent By Request

What we would like to see in a Safety Zone Ordinance

The booklet we prepared for Metro Council Members in 2016 proposed a 20' Safety Zone

ACLU sent a letter to Louisville Metro Council-Public Safety Committee June 12, 2017 with 3 suggestions, including the creation of a fixed 8' wide safety zone from the street to the clinic entrance. Their reasoning was sound and we would support this proposal.

Thank you

We want to thank you for your time in considering this ordinance.

If you have any questions about this presentation, please contact:

Patricia Canon canonhouse@gmail.com

Kate Cunningham kate.cunningham@gmail.com

Maggie Steptoe maggie.step toe@gmail.com

Caitlin Willenbrink caitlin.willenbrink@gmail.com