

John Pisciotta, Founding Director of Pro-Life Waco,
City Council abortion battle of August 2, 2022.

I will give you my bullet points on the whole controversy over the GRACE Act proposal to draw back Waco PD from enforcement of Texas abortion laws.

Here we go!

--GRACE is a sacrilegious acronym abortion supporters have come up with: Guarding the Right to Abortion Care for Everyone. GRACE ACT is a name popping up in cities of states with highly restrictive abortion laws.

--A GRACE Act has been approved by city councils in Austin and Denton, Texas.

--On July 19, city councilwoman Kelly Palmer proposed that Waco consider and vote in favor of the GRACE Act for Waco.

--No decision has been taken by the Waco City Council to make the GRACE Act an agenda item, which would be the first step toward a vote.

--Pro-Life Waco responded quickly with a campaign to raise our voices within the city of Waco and its city council to convince the council that placing the GRACE Act on the agenda would be a very bad idea for the council and our city.

--The centerpiece of the campaign was communications to Central Texas friends to attend the Waco City Council meeting on August 2 in a show of opposition to the GRACE Act

--We also encouraged folks to sign up to speak for up to 3 minutes during the time allotted for public comments on any topic.

--There were other significant pieces within the Pro-Life Waco campaign. One was stirring up a half dozen letters to the editor of the Waco Tribune-Herald. And we encourage hundreds to email messages to individual council members and the mayor.

--Abortion supporters also organized to show their support for gutting Waco PD enforcement of abortion laws.

--The city council meeting at the Bosque Theatre of the Waco convention center was overwhelmed by the turnout, which is estimated at 500 by KWTX News. This was the largest citizen turnout at a council meeting in Waco history.

--It looked like we outnumbered our opposition (mostly wearing green) by 4 to 1. Thank you to 400 faithful life defenders who showed up. The ratio of presentations to the city council was also 4 to 1. To speak a person had to fill out a request form prior to the council meeting.

--The turnout overwhelmed the capacity of the Bosque Theatre. So many guests were swarming into the Convention Center, we were asked to go to an adjacent conference room.

--While waiting for the opportunity to speak Pastor Ronnie Holmes spoke to the crowd, which included abortion supporters. One of the abortion supporters lost his cool engaging in mild violence, blocking Pastor Ronnie and cursing for all to hear. This included the F-bomb. If you are on Facebook, you can watch the altercation here.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hometownprolifeaction/posts/2120024998175611/>

--Waco PD was called in to established order. City officials decided to split the abortion supporters and the pro-lifers into two rooms. We remain in the initial room and the hundred or so abortion supporters walked off into an adjacent room.

--I don't know how many people signed up to speak. Some left early. However, 40 to 50 people spoke for the pro-life side at about 10 from the pro-abortion side. These numbers align with relative attendance.

--Usually, the council has public comments at the outset of the meeting. In view of the huge number of requests, public comments were shifted to the end of the regular business meeting.

--You can watch the testimony part of the City Council meeting which starts around the 4 hours and 20 minute marker, <http://wacocitytx.igam2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=4109&Format=Agenda>

--The business meeting began at 6 PM and ended about 7:30, with a closing time of 8:30 PM. That left just an hour for dozens of 3-minute presentations.

--At 8:30, there was hardly a dent into the stack of requests. The council approved a motion to extend comment time to 9:30.

--At 9:30 there were still many who had not had their opportunity to speak. A motion to extend the meeting to 11:30 PM was rejected. A compromise for extension to 10:30 was accepted. This meant there would be nearly 3 hours of testimony from both sides.

--As 10:30 approached, all the names had been called. Everyone who remained until 10:30 had their opportunity to speak. By the luck of the draw, John Pisciotta, Director of Pro-Life Waco, was the last to speak.

--Our 40 to 50 presentations were not only large in number but were powerful, well-crafted, and sincere. Three young teenagers spoke. Again, these meetings can be watched at the link above. This will be time well spent. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all our wonderful presenters.

--I was interested to see what type of presentations the other side would make. With the exception of one presentation by a woman who had an abortion following rape 20 years ago, I thought none were good. The others were incoherent, deceptive, and hard hearted.

--The meeting ended. We hung around and visited. We were faithful, honored God, and were blessed to have the opportunity to run to this battle.

--With true GRACE for God, our goal was achieved in my view. The so-called GRACE Act will not be taken up by city government. I am confident that with our show of compassion, energy, for a worthy cause has convinced a majority on the city council to do the right thing and move on to core responsibilities. In the end what councilwoman Kelly Palmer intended as a big boost for the pro-abortion movement turn out to be a big bust.

--Oh, and btw, councilwoman Palmer is up for reelection to the Waco City Council in May of 2023. That election may be an exclamation mark for the "Waco City Council abortion battle of August 2, 2022."