

RESOLUTION

Declaring pornography as a public health emergency

Whereas, the 1986 Attorney General’s Commission on Pornography defined pornography as “material that is predominantly sexually explicit and intended primarily for the purpose for sexual arousal, (1) and in 1973, the Supreme Court did not interpret the freedom of speech to include obscenity and considered obscenity to be outside the protection of the First Amendment, (2) and

Whereas, pornography creates a sexually toxic environment intertwined with the perpetuation of prostitution, and the modern-day slavery of human trafficking, with over half of sex trafficking victims reporting they were required to learn and perform sexual acts according to depictions in pornography, (3) and.....

Whereas, fifty-four experts in the social sciences concluded internet pornography can harm: women, children, consumers of pornography, and people unconnected to consumers of pornography, (4) and scientists also found regularly viewing pornographic images could adversely alter the brain, (5) and.....

Whereas, the pornographic industry annually makes more money than the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and Major League Baseball combined, (6) with an explicit video sharing internet site reporting people in 2015 globally viewing 4.3 billion hours of its content equaling 501,425 years, (7) and 54,000 cases of “revenge porn” involving extortion appearing on Facebook news feeds every month, (8) and.....

Whereas, Americans find pornography "morally unacceptable" by a two-to-one margin according to a 2016 poll conducted by Gallup, (9) and in response to public requests, corporate giants like McDonalds, Starbucks (10), and Hilton Hotels now block pornography from their WiFi networks and video on demand, (11) and

Whereas, area pastors from sixty-six congregations throughout Richland County, Ohio on July 22, 2015 called for a day of prayer, repentance, and fasting from the sin of immorality which includes the use of pornography, (12) continuing a local community standard of citizens opposing the pornography industry (13-25) and

Whereas, ten municipalities and thirteen townships inside Richland County, Ohio in 2009-2010 passed new restrictive laws regulating businesses selling pornography that not only provides state indemnification for local governments in the event of litigation, but also include restrictions thru zoning, licensing, isolation distances, and hours of operation, (26-37) continuing a record of local civic government discouraging use of pornography,(38-46) and.....

Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners, several Township Trustee Boards, and eight of the nine municipalities in Richland County, Ohio officially proclaimed “Pornography Awareness Week” in 2016, (47-49) and....

Whereas, fifteen states including Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Virginia officially declared pornography a dangerous epidemic and a public health crisis due to excessive social costs (50); and one of the two major political parties also declared pornography a “public health crisis “ in its party platform, (51) and.....

Whereas, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH): operates under Chapter 37 of the Ohio Revised Code entitled “Health, Safety and Morals,” is a member of the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, (52) and according to its website, ranks Ohio as fifth among all states in total reported human trafficking cases with Toledo identified as the fourth highest ranking city in the nation for recruiting victims into the illegal trade, (53) and....

Whereas, ODH and local health departments are tasked with the responsibility of compiling vital stats recording total births, marriages/divorces, sexually transmitted diseases, and suicides, which are all observed to be adversely impacted by the addiction to pornography (54-57) and....

Whereas, the Ohio House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly is currently considering House Bill 180 which is sponsored by nineteen state representatives, including Representative Mark Romanchuk, declaring pornography a “public health hazard that leads to a spectrum of individual and societal harms” (58) and....

Therefore be it resolved, due to its affiliation to human trafficking, the Board of Richland Public Health of the State of Ohio declares pornography a public health crisis, and encourages education, prevention, research, and policy changes at the state level to confront its proliferation on the Internet and in society; and be it further....

Resolved, the Board of Richland Public Health of the State of Ohio urges enforcement of obscenity laws and increased regulation of pornography on the Internet at both the state and federal levels in order to protect citizens and minors from such exposure; and be it further....

Resolved, the Board of Richland Public Health of the State of Ohio transmits duly authenticated copies of this resolution to local media outlets, the President of the Ohio Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Ohio Attorney General, and the United States Attorney General

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As corporate stakeholders, the following clergy representing seventy-four (74) congregations in the faith community on August 17th, 2020 endorse this resolution and request the Board of Health at Richland Public Health to approve this resolution

**Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community
Pastor Bryan Schatzinger, Calvary Chapel
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community
Pastor El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer
Pastor Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian
Pastor Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community
Pastor Denny Finnegan, First Evangelical Presbyterian
Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship
Pastor David Ferrell, Mansfield Holiness Chapel
Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Baptist Temple
Pastor Robert O'Brien, Apostolic Faith Assembly
Pastor Dave Guild, Mansfield Foursquare
Pastor Ron Smals, Woodville Grace Brethren
Pastor Matt Pond, First Freewill Baptist
Pastor Paul Lintern, Southside Christian
Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Church of GOD
Pastor Troy Wooten, Christian Life Center
Pastor Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist
Pastor James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist
Pastor Les Farley, Irresistible Church
Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Mansfield Potter's House
Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal
Elder Mark Hamilton, Providence Church
Pastor Don Wilson, Mansfield Faith Assembly
Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship
Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth LifePoint Church
Pastor Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church of GOD
Pastor Jeff Robertson, Fusion Delaware Street
Pastor Randy Raynes, Mansfield Fellowship Baptist
Pastor Terry Garrett, Lexington Fusion Church
Pastor Mark Bailey, Mansfield Freewill Baptist
Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD**

**Pastor Joe Smith, Westside Baptist
Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare
Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield Caeserea Baptist
Pastor Ted Howard, Apostolic Holiness
Pastor Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church
Pastor Jason Price, Victory Baptist Church
Pastor Bill Howell, Shiloh Messiah House of Prayer
Pastor Earl Eiklor, Cornerstone Freewill Baptist
Pastor Larry Hulver, New Liberty Baptist
Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside First Church of GOD
Pastor Christopher Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist
Pastor Dink Porter, First Church of the Open Bible
Pastor Jody Odom, Ambassadors for Christ
Elder Moe Hill, Grace Evangelical Free
Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend of the Brethren
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran
Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD
Pastor Paul Larson, First English Lutheran
Pastor Clyde Kerby, Ministries of Hope Healing
Pastor Sylvester Ginn, Hesed Agape Fellowship
Pastor Mike Stine, Clear Fork Alliance
Pastor Dan Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly
Pastor Mark Meyer, Gracepoint Sanctuary
Pastor Jeremy Muncy, Westwood Alliance
Pastor Clint Zeigler, Sovereign Christ Church
Pastor Mike Wilson, Lincoln Heights Baptist
Rabbi William Hallbrook, Sar Shalom Center
Pastor Bruce Copley, Mansfield Faith Chapel
Pastor Keven Evans, Ganges Liberty Baptist
Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community Church
Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesley Evangelical Church
Pastor Steven Baldrige, Rome Community Church
Pastor Lester Champer, Shelby Church of Nazarene
Pastor James Hill, Paradise Freewill Baptist
Pastor Paul Mathewson, Maranatha Bible Baptist
Pastor Dan Zediker, Mission Point Mansfield**