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Retta walked down the sidewalk to place his bag of pro-life material on the grass, his usual practice.

“As his bag touched the ground, an Officer Carruth told him he must leave the property,” said Smith.

“Dick asked him on what authority the police were asking him to leave.

“The officer became aggressive and unresponsive to Dick’s inquiry. Instead, he told him in no uncertain terms that if he didn’t leave, he would arrest him, handcuff him and take him to jail.”

Retta heeded the warning and left the property.

A plat of the property obtained by attorney Matt Bowman of the Alliance Defense Fund two years ago shows that the public property line starts at the building and extends 45 feet to the sidewalk running parallel to the building.

“Because we have had access all the way to the door, we have had good opportunities to converse with abortion-minded persons, and have been able to save many children from dying,” said Smith.

Back home, Smith went on her computer to check for possible changes on the plat. The Recorder of Deeds showed its status unaltered.

The next day she spoke by phone to Police Captain Jeff Harold of the Second District.

On Saturday, May 1, she told him, a large group of Christendom students would be coming up to pray. There could be confrontations between them and the clinic “escorts,” who have been “aggressive,” pushing and shoving pro-lifers in the past.

Planned Parenthood pays \$1.5 million damages

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., has settled a medical negligence case out of court for \$1.5 million.

The case involves an abortion performed on a 14-year-old Leonardtown, Md., girl at its 16th Street abortion facility in 2006.

According to the complaint, filed in D.C.’s U.S. District Court in February 2008, Shanteese Butler underwent a badly botched abortion, resulting in severe, life-threatening injuries that left her permanently infertile.

As part of the settlement, the girl’s attorney, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., received a \$612,000 lump sum payment for fees and costs, pursuant to a 40 percent contingency fee arrangement.

As president of the Maryland State Senate, Miller’s voting record on abortion-related legislation has been overwhelmingly pro-abortion.

Shanteese Butler had just turned 14 when, on September 7, 2006, her mother, Emma Jean Butler, took her to the 16th Street clinic for an abortion.

Abortinist Colin St. Patrick Walters, MD, performed a suction dilation and curettage abortion on the girl, who was then discharged and told to return in two weeks for a post-operative check-up.

The following day, however, Shanteese was rushed to the emergency room of Civista Medical Center in La Plata, Md., with severe abdominal pain and peritonitis.

Shanteese underwent emergency surgery to evacuate the heavy abdominal bleeding.

During the operation, according to the complaint, doctors discovered that Shanteese had also sustained severe vaginal and cervical injuries, a significant uterine perforation, and a small bowel tear.

A significant portion of the unborn child was allegedly found still inside Shanteese’s abdomen. Injuries sustained during the abortion have rendered the girl infertile for the rest of her life.

The settlement agreement was signed on February 24, 2009.

Harold promised a police presence on Saturday, and by 6:30 a.m. on May 1, two police officers were stationed in front of the building.

“We were elated to have over 77 prayer warriors present, over 60 from Christendom College, many from CUA [Catholic University of America], and other regulars,” said Retta.

Rather than kneel on the grass, the pro-lifers stood lining the side-

walk parallel to the clinic.

Despite the fence, sidewalk counselors were able to talk three women out of aborting their babies.

“The new fence, the Gates of Hell, could not prevail against us,” said Retta.

Smith has talked to D.C. pro-life attorney Gerry Mitchell, who has agreed to work with the pro-lifers on Planned Parenthood’s attempt to deny them access to public property.