

Abortion provider carafem to explore options as Mt. Juliet approves zoning regulations

Andy Humbles, Nashville Tennessean Published 6:00 a.m. CT April 10, 2019



An abortion provider has opened a clinic in Mt. Juliet on Crossings Circle near Providence Marketplace. The city has now regulated surgical abortion facilities to industrial zoned areas of Mt. Juliet. (Photo: File)

An abortion provider will explore options after Mt. Juliet city commissioners unanimously approved regulating surgical abortion clinics to industrial zoned areas of the city.

[Carafem opened a clinic March 1](#) ([/story/news/local/wilson/2019/03/01/mt-juliet-abortion-provider-carafem-resistance-city-church/3029532002/](#)), Mt. Juliet on Crossings Circle, part of a commercial area near Providence Marketplace. Carafem announced it would initially offer birth control and medical abortions - also known as "the abortion pill" - to end pregnancies up to 10 weeks in Mt. Juliet, with plans to offer surgical abortion procedures in the future.

"We are obviously disappointed that the city has decided to exercise its zoning authority for the political purpose of targeting abortion providers, and specifically carafem," carafem Chief Operating Officer Melissa Grant said in an emailed statement. "We are considering a variety of options in moving forward and remain committed to our serving our mission in Tennessee."

Grant was not specific about what options would be explored in her statement.

[Zoning in general is designed "to protect the health, safety and welfare"](#) ([/story/news/local/wilson/2019/03/04/mt-juliet-abortion-clinic-carafem-zoning-change/3053832002/](#)) of a city's residents, Mt. Juliet Mayor Ed Hagerty said.

"Not only citizens who are not yet born, but citizens who are concerned about violence at that location," Hagerty said. "And you do hear about that in other parts of the country."

The zoning amendment Mt. Juliet commissioners approved Monday on a second reading was on the consent agenda.

Commissioners began the approval process to regulate surgical abortion clinics through its zoning regulations with a called meeting two days after the clinic opened with a first reading vote.

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Another first reading vote was taken at a later meeting because of language changes to the ordinance, officials said.
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