

A Statement From:

Monsignor Rick Stansberry, president

Andrew Worthington, principal



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Dear Bishop McGuinness family, we recently learned of a concerning YouTube video by the group “Abolitionists Rising” which focused on staff member Lori Crews.

The video presents Ms. Crews in a poor light, through her engagement with the group leader. Through internal review, we, in conjunction with and under the guidance of Archdiocese of Oklahoma City leadership, have reason to believe the video was heavily edited and manipulated, misrepresenting Ms. Crews by omitting key portions of her responses.

The interaction did not occur at a Pride event, as suggested, but as Ms. Crews was returning from the Farmers Market. Also not visible in the video, Ms. Crews reported, is a scene that involved many group members surrounding her and hurling questions her way and creating a hostile and confusing environment.

Abolitionists Rising, according to its website, “seek(s) to abolish abortion totally and immediately,” while refusing to align with any incremental legislation, stating: “Abolitionists Rising is not part of the Pro-Life Movement. We are separate from the Pro-Life Movement in theology, tactics, and goals.”

The group, often viewed as radical, has been challenged by noted Catholic apologist Trent Horn.

Ms. Crews said the video in no way represents her views on abortion.

“The man in the video would say he just wanted to understand my position,” Ms. Crews said. “For most of the conversation, I thought I was helping a Christian man realize their tactics would not assist the goal of decreasing abortion and that they should use the scriptural model that Jesus displayed.

“I am pro-life and have always been. I believe life begins at conception.

“I take responsibility for allowing myself to be manipulated and put in a position where my words could be manipulated, drawing unnecessary controversy to our great school. I am truly sorry and fully apologize for the distress this has caused the Bishop McGuinness community.”