

# Houston Mayor Drops Demand for Pastors' Sermons

*But critics say 'political intimidation and bullying' remain*

October 29, 2014

By [Bob Unruh](#)



Houston's lesbian mayor, inundated by hundreds of Bibles being sent to her office and coast-to-coast criticism, has decided to withdraw her subpoenas of "sermons" and other communications belonging to five area pastors who oppose her "nondiscrimination" ordinance that allows "gender-confused" people to use their choice of restrooms.

Mayor Annise Parker, who once admitted the ordinance was all about her, made the announcement at a press conference early Wednesday.

[WND broke the story two weeks ago](#) of the city's subpoenas in a lawsuit against the "bathroom bill."

Parker explained she was "directing the city legal department to withdraw the subpoenas issued to the five Houston pastors who delivered the petitions, the anti-HERO petitions, to the city of Houston and who indicated that they were responsible for the overall petition effort."

The five pastors, however, are not party to the lawsuit against the city, which charges the mayor and city attorney arbitrarily nullified a successful petition effort to force the city council to reconsider its approval of the ordinance or to put it before voters.

Parker continued: "It is extremely important to me to protect our Equal Rights Ordinance from repeal, and it is extremely important to me to make sure that every Houstonian knows that their lives are valid and protected and acknowledged. We are going to continue to vigorously defend our ordinance against repeal efforts." A trial in the case is scheduled for January.

Parker's ordinance was adopted by the council in May over the objections of multiple organizations of pastors and leaders. The opponents then collected more than 50,000 signatures. In the validation process, the city secretary stopped counting after reaching about 19,000, determining that the threshold level of about 17,000 had been reached. The city attorney then stepped in and declared many thousands of signatures were invalid.

In response to the subpoenas, opponents have urged pastors across the country to send the mayor copies of their sermons and other concerned citizens to send Bibles. Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, whose organization will hold a simulcast rally from Houston on Sunday on the issue, said, "Standing together across the nation, Christians have sent a strong message to Mayor Parker."

Perkins said that while he and his allies "are encouraged by this evidence that the mayor is responding to pressure and withdrawing her unconstitutional subpoenas, this is about far more than subpoenas."

"As we have stated since the beginning of this intrusion into the private affairs of Houston churches; this is not about subpoenas, this is not about sermons, it is not even about biblical teaching on sexual immorality. It is about the political intimidation and..."

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

*<http://www.wnd.com/2014/10/houston-mayor-takes-final-action-on-demand-for-sermons/>*