

WND EXCLUSIVE

'VILE, FILTHY': RUSH RIPS HOUSTON MAYOR'S SERMON GRAB

'Cannot figure out why' law enforcement not pursuing her

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JOE KOVACS [About](#) | [Email](#) | [Archive](#)

Joe Kovacs is an award-winning journalist and, since 1999, executive news editor of WND. He is the author of two best-selling books: "Shocked by the Bible: The Most Astonishing Facts You've Never Been Told" and its 2012 sequel, "The Divine Secret: The Awesome and Untold Truth About Your Phenomenal Destiny."



Radio host Rush Limbaugh

Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2014/10/vile-filthy-rush-rips-houston-mayors-sermon-grab/#H5XqU91WDhvy3tq4.99>

The quest by the mayor of Houston to subpoena the sermons of five Christian pastors regarding homosexuality is now being blasted as "vile" and "filthy" by Rush Limbaugh, America's top-rated radio host.

"I think what that mayor in Houston has done may be one of the most vile, filthy, blatant violations of the Constitution that I have seen," Limbaugh said Wednesday on his national broadcast.

“And I, for the life of me, cannot figure out why law authorities are not pursuing this. I cannot understand it.”

WND broke the story a week ago of the city’s response to a lawsuit against a “bathroom bill” passed in May that allows “gender confused” people to use public facilities designated for the opposite sex.

Opponents of the Equal Rights Ordinance sued when their apparently successful petition drive to place the issue on the election ballot was tossed out.

They charge City Attorney Dave Feldman and Mayor Annise Parker, a lesbian, summarily dismissed thousands of valid signatures. In the discovery process for a scheduled January trial, the city subpoenaed Welch and four other pastors for any sermons or church communications that mention the ordinance or the mayor. Though they have been active opponents of the law, the five pastors are not party to the lawsuit.



Houston Mayor Annise Parker

WND reported outrage from across the nation ensued, and lawyers with the Alliance Defending Freedom asked a court to throw out the subpoenas. Amid the protest, city officials at first doubled down, with Parker stating, “If the 5 pastors used pulpits for politics, their sermons are fair game.” But Houston officials then said they would narrow the scope of their demand to “speeches” instead of sermons, a move ADF legal counsel Joe La Rue said was “wholly inadequate.” In a telephone conference call where plans for a nationwide simulcast rally, called IStandSunday on Nov. 2, were announced, Family Research Council chief Tony Perkins said the Houston pastors were just doing what they should have been doing – “preaching the word of God as it pertains to today.”

“In reality this is not about speeches,” he said. “It’s about political intimidation. ... It’s about the mayor using her bully pulpit to try to silence the [church] pulpits of Houston.”

Gov. Mike Huckabee, one of the first to jump to the defense of the pastors, who are “under siege,” said, the mayor may have “unwittingly” awakened people in the pews.

“A lot of businesses and frankly some churches ... [have said] ‘We don’t want to get involved. We don’t want to have people picketing us, sending us nasty emails.’ I understand that,” Huckabee said. But, “if we allow the bullying to continue I think we’re going to see the silencing of the message in pulpits.”

Dave Welch, a Houston pastor targeted by the subpoenas, said the pastors have gone too far in the fight to give up now.

“At the end of the day if we have to carry this all the way through, we will,” he said. “The question is, how could this happen in Houston?”

He said it is because voters across American have allowed “these critical institutions to fall into the hands of those who are of an opposite world view, and are intentionally deconstructing God’s created world order.”

He continued, “Elections have consequences ... the ungodly use of power, and frankly just the evil abuse of that,” he said.

Welch noted that among city council members who earlier supported the mayor’s plan, there now are several who are reconsidering.

“This is overreach,” he said they told him.

Now, more than a week after WND first reported the story, most national news networks have completely ignored the scandal.

“In the first two days after the Houston subpoena story broke, the networks said nothing about it,” [Newsbusters reported](#) Wednesday. “Instead those news shows talked about movie sequels about male strippers and a ‘hunks with hounds’ calendar instead. Since then, nothing has changed. ABC, CBS and NBC new programs continued to ignore outrage over the Houston mayor’s demands. Equally as trivial stories like a segment asking ‘Are Halloween decorations getting too scary?’ on Sept. 20’s ‘Today’ show, and another ‘Celebrity Workout Secrets’ on ABC’s ‘Good Morning America’ Oct.20. were featured instead.

“Only a few left-leaning outlets initially reported the story. The Washington Post, Huffington Post, and Time wrote on the story but the two ‘Posts’ framed the issue in a way which made the pastors look like the bad guys.”

The mayor’s contact information:

Mayor Annise D. Parker
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562 Houston, Texas 77251
Phone: (713) 837-0311
Email: mayor@houstontx.gov

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