



Steve Mellon / Po

Transgender rights supporters clash with anti-trans group in Downtown



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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SEP 9, 2022 10:43 PM



The City-County Building in Downtown was the site of a protest and counterprotest on Friday as speakers for the Rev Foxx USA group, an organization that is against gender reassignment in all forms, were quickly met with a larger group there to support transgender rights.



The original protest consisted of a group of 6 individuals chanting stances against gender reassignment and holding signs stating "Dear Gov. Wolf no child is born in the wrong body" and



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saying, "Dear Gov. Wolf: No child is born in the wrong body" and "puberty is not a medical problem." They were confronted by people who brought noisemakers, quickly drowning out any speeches made by the Rev Foxx USA group.

The protests together had about 60 people in attendance, with the majority being those in support of transgender rights. Both groups stood face to face opposing each other for about 10 minutes before police separated them.

Gabrielle Clark, the founder of Rev Foxx USA, said the organization is against individuals who identify as a gender different than their gender assigned at birth and against spaces where transgendered individuals are placed amongst cis-gendered women.

"We are standing in solidarity with women all over the world who want single sex spaces," Ms. Clark said. "We believe that as far as safeguarding issue our single sex spaces need to be protected. Women in prison right now are being raped by straight up whole men because they're identifying as women and being placed in housing and women's facilities and children are being being harmed in schools because men ... boys are being allowed to go into their locker rooms and in their bathrooms."

Rachel Nunes, a counterprotester in support of transgender rights, said she heard about the Rev Foxx USA protest through word of mouth and it was important to come out and to stand up for transgender rights.

"I believe that transphobia is hate speech and I don't think it should be allowed to be a permitted event in the city and I am really disappointed that some of our elected officials came out here to defend this [Rev Foxx USA group], Ms. Nunes said. "For police presence I think it's overbearing as usual."

The counterprotesters held up signs stating "protect trans kids" and "trans rights are civil rights and human rights."

Ms. Nunes said the presence of noise makers by the counterprotesters was to "drown out" the message from the Rev Foxx USA group.

"We are all sort of here on the belief that this is a dangerous rhetoric and it shouldn't be heard," Ms. Nunes said.

Staff writer Mick Stinelli contributed.

First Published September 9, 2022, 10:43pm



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