



February 20, 2024

Honorable Letitia James
Office of the New York State Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany NY 12224-0341

Dear Madam Attorney General,

I am writing to request that you open an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the recent use of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City by transgender activists to deceptively gain access and advance ideas and beliefs hostile to doctrines of the Catholic Church, while openly mocking these beliefs.

Importantly, according to both media reports and video footage readily available online, activists admit to withholding from cathedral administrators the full intent and purpose of their gathering. Indeed, the Archdiocese of New York has publicly affirmed that they "had no idea our welcome and prayer would be degraded in such a sacrilegious and deceptive way." The deception employed to gain access to St. Patrick's Cathedral in order to hold a ceremony that profaned that holy place and mocked the Catholic religion cries out for justice.

As you know, New York state law bars criminal trespass and hate crimes. New York's Hate Crimes Act prohibits persons from selecting a victim based on their belief or perception regarding religion or religious practice, among other things, when committing specified offenses. Penal Law Sec. 485.05.1(a). Under New York's hate crimes law, selecting the victim of a criminal trespass based on a religion or religious practice is a hate crime. Penal Law Sec. 485.3. New York's courts have recognized that those who gain access to property by deception are liable for criminal trespass. *People v. Segal*, 78 Misc.2d 955 (1974).

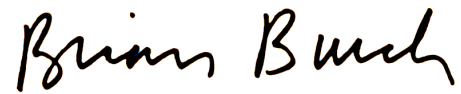
The outrageous sacrilege perpetrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral is indeed a hate crime. Video footage shows that transgender activists intentionally used deception to obtain permission to enter St. Patrick's and the facts show that access was used to desecrate that sacred space and mock Catholic faith and morals. Again, the pastor of St. Patrick's has confirmed that they were not told the nature and purpose of the offensive stunt that was planned.

We urge you to act quickly and resolutely to address this grave injustice, the very sort of vicious abuse that New York's Hate Crimes Act was designed to prevent. On behalf of millions of Catholics nationwide, we are asking for your help to vindicate the rights and dignity of Catholic New Yorkers, and indeed, the countless Catholics throughout this nation who regard St. Patrick's

as one of their most revered holy places.

I urge you to defend the rights and dignity of Catholic New Yorkers and the tens of thousands of Catholics from throughout this great nation who visit St. Patrick's to honor the saint and practice their faith each year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Burch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Burch, President