Abortion protests heat up downtown

Activists showed up in support of abortion rights in response to the leaked SCOTUS opinion.

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Women of LA
The stories of three prominent women making an impact in the city.

EMILY FAITH GRODIN

On June 7, primary elections will be held to nominate candidates to advance to the general election in the 37th congressional district of Los Angeles. One name to appear on the ballot is Rep. Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), who is serving her sixth term representing the 37th Congressional District. This district covers the Fairfax and Venice neighborhoods, where Bass grew up watching the civil rights movement unfold with her father.

The Los Angeles native began her career as a physician's assistant and clinical instructor at the USC Keck School of Medicine. During this time, she witnessed first-hand the effects of drugs and violence on the public. Bass then went on to found Community Coalition, an organization whose purpose is to improve the social and economic state of neighborhoods in South Los Angeles. Women, poverty and addiction exist. Therefore, she took her work in community activism.

Shaping crime before it happens is something that Bass has done in all of her roles with Los Angeles Women's Alliance, from a volunteer, to a legal aid worker, and eventually the executive director. Today, the mayoral candidate spearheads the Women's Alliance in Foreign Affairs as the chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights. In 2019 and 2020 she was one of the 14 women on the Congressional Black Caucus. In the coming months, she will continue her campaign with plans of increasing police presence and an attempt to prevent violent crimes in the 37th district, which has over 15,000 homeless by the end of the year. One of the issues that the first woman to be elected mayor of Los Angeles, Bass, will aim to solve is the homelessness crisis.

While Bass believes that women are capable of anything, she also believes that we have the resources, time, support, and wisdom to solve any problem we face—just to have come together.
Women’s March

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Women’s March activists soon surrounded the religious group, covering the opening of the megaphone with signs and creating a huddle around them, in an effort to muffle their message. About 15 police officers were on standby, stepping in occasionally to separate the opposing groups.

As the protesters shouted over each other, the organized speakers did not stop in sharing messages. Over calls of murder by the Official Street Preachers, attorney and women’s rights activist Gloria Allred stated that she had to be rushed to the hospital following the life-threatening incident. Allred shared that she was cared for by a pro-life nurse, who said that she hoped the near-death experience following the abortion taught Allred a lesson.

“It did teach me a lesson, but not the one she wanted me to learn,” said the 80-year-old activist in her message to the crowd. “I want you — for me, you, the people you never met before — I want you to vote. Vote as though your lives depend on it — because they do.”

For the full story, read our online version.