Keep the Peace: How to prepare for and manage Protests

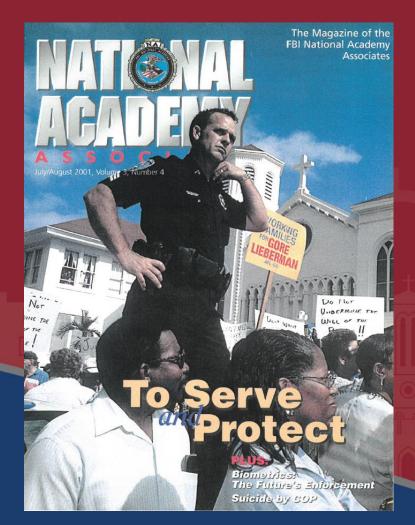
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History of Protests

- The United States has a history of protests even prior to its inception; Boston Tea Party
- The City of West Palm Beach has its own history. The Presidential Election of 2000, "butterfly ballots" with "hanging chads" caused delay of the election results. No EFF.





Emergency Field Force (EFF)

- 2005 the West Palm Beach Police Department established an EFF Team
- There were few occasions our EFF Team was needed
- Assisted Tampa PD during the 2012 Republican National Convention
- After the 2016 election, there were weekly

deployments.....





Protests in WPB and Mar-a-Lago

November 2016 protests at Trump
 Plaza - Increased each week

- January 2017 "Women's March"
 6,000 attendees
- February 2017 "March to Mar-a-Lago" 3000 marchers, 1000 at location
- March 2017 Numerous Presidential visits





Protests in WPB and Mar-a-Lago

- April 2017 Chinese Presidential visit. Opposition and supporters of both leaders
- April 15 "Show me your taxes"
- April 29 "Climate march"





Safety of protest depends on prior planning

- 1) Selection of personnel; self control/restraint
- 2) Select best person for each assignment (Tactics)
- 3) Eight training sessions
- 4) Mutual aid

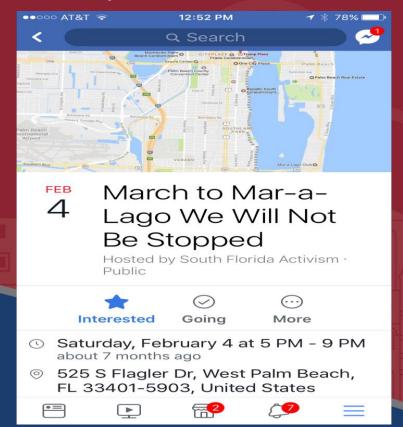




Awareness of a Protest

How police become aware of a protest

- a) Request for permit (City Special Events)
- b) Social media announcement
- c) Fusion Center & Intelligence Community
- d) Organizer contacts police
- e) Officer discovers demonstration





Four Considerations for Protests

- 1) Prior Community Involvement
- Police have to be apolitical
- First Amendment Rights
- 4) Safety for all involved



The Bill of Rights

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievanees.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

No person shall be held to answer for any capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces. or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where in the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people

Determining Level of Involvement

- Identify Leader/Organizer
- Determine approximate number of attendees
- Less than 100 participants, monitor unless it is a controversial topic Example; Charlottesville.
- More than 100 participants, set up a meeting with organizer(s).





Requests and Expectations

Requests (Organizers)

- Location
- Safety



Expectations (Police)

- Can't block street/sidewalk unless permitted
- No objects considered weapons
- Discourage use of bullhorns
- Marshalls/Monitors
- Identify subversives



Operational Priorities

- Life Safety Separate protestors / counter protestors
- 2) Incident Stabilization Maintain the peace
- 3) Property Protection Be aware of anarchists
- 4) Primary Goal is Crowd Management





Deciding to take action

- Passive protestors equals measured response
- Should be last option
- Attempt to gain voluntary compliance
- Quick removal of agitator(s)
- Fire / gas equals flash point Ensure ample routes of egress
- Have resources in place before taking action





