

Steve Lorenzetti/NACC/NPS

10/10/2011 08:24 PM

To "Bob Vogel" <bob_vogel@nps.gov>, "Karen Cucurullo" <karen_cucurullo@nps.gov>, "Carol Johnson" <carol_b_johnson@nps.gov>, "Bill Line"

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Permit

See below for an update on the Freedom Plaza permit issue. The protesters seem to more interested in extending the permit rather than being arrested. The permit situation looks good until Saturday when the Mayor's Office has a permit.

Carol, I want to get with you, Bill and Marisa first thing Tuesday to discuss a press release on this issue. There are already press stories claiming we have issued a 4 month extension.

Steve

Sent from Steve's BlackBerry

Charles Guddemi

----- Original Message -----

From: Charles Guddemi

Sent: 10/10/2011 08:12 PM EDT

To: Steve Lorenzetti

Subject: Fw: Permit

----- Forwarded by Charles Guddemi/USPP/NPS on 10/10/2011 08:12 PM -----

Marisa

Richardson/NACC/NPS

10/10/2011 07:51 PM

To "Margaret Flowers" <mdpnhp@gmail.com>

cc "Christopher Cunningham"

<christopher_cunningham@nps.gov>, "Robbin Owen"

<robbin_owen@nps.gov>, "Leonard Lee"

<Leonard_Lee@nps.gov>, "William Line"

<William_Line@nps.gov>, "Karen Cucurullo"

<Karen_Cucurullo@nps.gov>, "Charles Guddemi"

<Charles_Guddemi@nps.gov>

Subject Re: Permit

Hi Margaret

Thank you for the information. I will contact you in the morning in regards to the request.

Thank You

Marisa

From: Margaret Flowers [mdpnhp@gmail.com]

Sent: 10/10/2011 07:25 PM AST

To: Marisa Richardson

Subject: Permit

Dear Marisa,

Thank you for your willingness to work with us. We appreciate the respect that you and your colleagues have shown us.

Kevin and I would like to request an extension of our current permit for Freedom Plaza for the maximum period of time with the same conditions that we have in the current permit. Please let me know if this is a possibility and what we need to do to make this happen.

Best regards,
Margaret

--

Margaret Flowers M.D.
Congressional Fellow
Physicians for a National Health Program
410-591-0892
mdpnhp@gmail.com
www.md.pnhp.org



"Fetcher, Adam K"
<Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov>
>

10/11/2011 10:16 AM

To "Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Waldron, Suzanne" <Sue_Waldron@nps.gov>, "Line, William" <William_Line@nps.gov>, "Foster, Maureen" <William_Line@nps.gov>, "Lee-Ashley, Matt" <Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>, "Kelly, Kate P" <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>

bcc

Subject DC protest permit

Good morning everyone. Wanted to check in on the Freedom Plaza permit issue.

█. Please send an update. █

Thanks,
Adam

WaPo: Protesters try to extend stay in Freedom Plaza

By Teresa Tomassoni and Annie Gowen, Published: October 10

Many of the protesters who have made camp in Freedom Plaza in downtown Washington thought Monday would end with their arrests. By early evening, their organizers said they had been invited to stay.

The National Park Service, which grants permits for use of federal parkland, did not see it the same way.

The Park Service had met with organizers of the Stop the Machine group, which has camped since Thursday in the plaza just east of the White House.

But, said Park Service spokesman Bill Line, "nothing was agreed upon."

Margaret Flowers said she understood that the group had been told it could stay for four more months.

Line said there were informal talks about the possibilities of extending the permit. "Nothing was finalized," he said.

Permits have been granted for use of the plaza by other groups, he said. The parties to Monday's meeting left with the understanding that efforts would be made to see what could be arranged.

Flowers said the group would take pains to accommodate other organizations that have plans to

use the plaza in the coming weeks.

Many in the group expected a different outcome. Some thought that the permit expired late Sunday and that they would need to be gone by Monday afternoon. On Monday, Flowers said, Park Police officers told them their permit actually expired Monday night.

When expulsion was thought to be imminent, some said they were determined to stay or be arrested. Anne Wright had her attorney's number written on her arm Monday.

"We'll go out nonviolently kicking and screaming," she said from a wicker chair.

"We bought one-way tickets," said Don Anderson, a Vietnam War veteran who was camping at Freedom Plaza with a friend from Los Angeles. Anderson, who is paralyzed from the waist down and spoke from a wheelchair, said he will protest until he sees improvement in the government's handling of veterans' affairs.

The Stop the Machine group has made statements similar to the demands voiced by other groups — such as Occupy Wall Street and Occupy D.C. — that have set up in cities around the country. Protesters have expressed frustration with war, the economy and other issues.

Not far from Freedom Plaza, another protest has grown steadily in McPherson Square. In the 10 days since the Occupy D.C. group set up camp there, it has grown from a handful of protesters waving cardboard signs along K Street to a full-fledged encampment.

More than 100 people attend twice-daily general assembly meetings. Dozens have spent nights on air mattresses and in sleeping bags, then turned out for daily marches to the White House and elsewhere.

Group meetings and decision making also have taken root in Freedom Plaza. When the Park Police arrived Monday afternoon, they asked to speak with Flowers alone; she declined. She held a group meeting, whose members eventually agreed Flowers and another organizer, Kevin Zeese, could meet with police privately.

"They've been good to us so far," Zeese said of the Park Police.

After the conversation with police, Flowers called another meeting. Members "were happy about" what they took to be the extended permit, Flowers said, though some insisted that, under the Constitution, "it was our right to be here in the beginning."

Occupy D.C. does not have a permit to occupy McPherson Square, but members say police have left them alone so far. "No one has any plans to ask for a permit — or to leave," said Legba Carrefour, a self-described anarchist. "We haven't had any problems with police."

Staff writer Sylvia Carignan contributed to this report.

DCist: Morning Roundup: Negotiation Edition

Good morning, Washington. Last night, negotiations between protesters inside Freedom Plaza, the National Park Service and Park Police resulted in an invitation to stay -- but it's unclear for how long. Reports indicate that while nothing's official yet, the protest's organizers were under the impression that they'd be permitted to stay inside the Plaza for another four months; the National Park Service wouldn't confirm that, but did say that there were discussions about accommodating the group, despite other groups' permits to use the space. The negotiations here in D.C. stand in stark contrast to what went down in Boston last night, as police and Occupy protesters dramatically faced off in Dewey Square , with 100 eventually being arrested and cops being recorded knocking over veterans.



Maureen Foster/WASO/NPS
10/11/2011 10:20 AM

To "Adam Fetcher" <Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov>, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS, Sue Waldron/WASO/NPS@NPS, William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc "Matt Lee-ashley" <Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>, "Katherine Kelly" <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Alexa Viets" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>
bcc
Subject Re: DC protest permit

We are getting a briefing paper from the regional office and USPP today. We will also be adding it to the Hot Topics on Wednesday.

We will share that paper after we have reviewed it.

Maureen

Maureen D. Foster
202.208.5970

From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: 10/11/2011 10:16 AM AST
To: David Barna; Sue Waldron; William Line; Maureen Foster
Cc: Matt Lee-ashley; Katherine Kelly
Subject: DC protest permit

Good morning everyone. Wanted to check in on the Freedom Plaza permit issue. Do you anticipate resolution to this issue today? Clearly there is some confusion about what the future of this permit will be. Please send an update.

Thanks,
Adam

WaPo: Protesters try to extend stay in Freedom Plaza

By Teresa Tomassoni and Annie Gowen, Published: October 10

Many of the protesters who have made camp in Freedom Plaza in downtown Washington thought Monday would end with their arrests. By early evening, their organizers said they had been invited to stay.

The National Park Service, which grants permits for use of federal parkland, did not see it the

same way.

The Park Service had met with organizers of the Stop the Machine group, which has camped since Thursday in the plaza just east of the White House.

But, said Park Service spokesman Bill Line, “nothing was agreed upon.”

Margaret Flowers said she understood that the group had been told it could stay for four more months.

Line said there were informal talks about the possibilities of extending the permit. “Nothing was finalized,” he said.

Permits have been granted for use of the plaza by other groups, he said. The parties to Monday’s meeting left with the understanding that efforts would be made to see what could be arranged.

Flowers said the group would take pains to accommodate other organizations that have plans to use the plaza in the coming weeks.

Many in the group expected a different outcome. Some thought that the permit expired late Sunday and that they would need to be gone by Monday afternoon. On Monday, Flowers said, Park Police officers told them their permit actually expired Monday night.

When expulsion was thought to be imminent, some said they were determined to stay or be arrested. Anne Wright had her attorney’s number written on her arm Monday.

“We’ll go out nonviolently kicking and screaming,” she said from a wicker chair.

“We bought one-way tickets,” said Don Anderson, a Vietnam War veteran who was camping at Freedom Plaza with a friend from Los Angeles. Anderson, who is paralyzed from the waist down and spoke from a wheelchair, said he will protest until he sees improvement in the government’s handling of veterans’ affairs.

The Stop the Machine group has made statements similar to the demands voiced by other groups — such as Occupy Wall Street and Occupy D.C. — that have set up in cities around the country. Protesters have expressed frustration with war, the economy and other issues.

Not far from Freedom Plaza, another protest has grown steadily in McPherson Square. In the 10 days since the Occupy D.C. group set up camp there, it has grown from a handful of protesters waving cardboard signs along K Street to a full-fledged encampment.

More than 100 people attend twice-daily general assembly meetings. Dozens have spent nights on air mattresses and in sleeping bags, then turned out for daily marches to the White House and elsewhere.

Group meetings and decision making also have taken root in Freedom Plaza. When the Park Police arrived Monday afternoon, they asked to speak with Flowers alone; she declined. She held a group meeting, whose members eventually agreed Flowers and another organizer, Kevin Zeese, could meet with police privately.

“They’ve been good to us so far,” Zeese said of the Park Police.

After the conversation with police, Flowers called another meeting. Members “were happy about” what they took to be the extended permit, Flowers said, though some insisted that, under the Constitution, “it was our right to to be here in the beginning.”

Occupy D.C. does not have a permit to occupy McPherson Square, but members say police have left them alone so far. “No one has any plans to ask for a permit — or to leave,” said Legba Carrefour, a self-described anarchist. “We haven’t had any problems with police.”

Staff writer Sylvia Carignan contributed to this report.

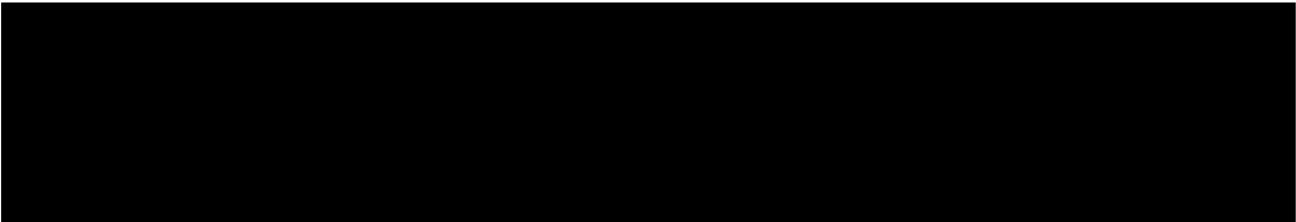
DCist: Morning Roundup: Negotiation Edition

Good morning, Washington. Last night, negotiations between protesters inside Freedom Plaza, the National Park Service and Park Police resulted in an invitation to stay -- but it's unclear for how long. Reports indicate that while nothing's official yet, the protest's organizers were under the impression that they'd be permitted to stay inside the Plaza for another four months; the National Park Service wouldn't confirm that, but did say that there were discussions about accommodating the group, despite other groups' permits to use the space. The negotiations here in D.C. stand in stark contrast to what went down in Boston last night, as police and Occupy protesters dramatically faced off in Dewey Square , with 100 eventually being arrested and cops being recorded knocking over veterans.



"Fetcher, Adam K"
 <Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov
 >
 10/11/2011 11:29 AM

To "Viets, Alexa" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>
 cc "Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Kelly, Kate P"
 <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Lee-Ashley, Matt"
 <Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>, "Foster, Maureen"
 bcc
 Subject RE: DC protest permit



-----Original Message-----

From: Fetcher, Adam K
 Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:51 AM
 To: 'Alexa_Viets@nps.gov'
 Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
 Subject: RE: DC protest permit

30 minutes. Just one line like the below would be outstanding.

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexa_Viets@nps.gov [mailto:Alexa_Viets@nps.gov]
 Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:39 AM
 To: Fetcher, Adam K
 Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
 Subject: RE: DC protest permit

Adam,

I am helping to coordinate the updates from the park and from USPP. What would be your deadline for the press briefing?

Thanks,
 Alexa

Alexa Viets
 National Park Service
 (202) 501-7144

"Fetcher, Adam K"
 <Adam_Fetcher@ios
 .doi.gov>

10/11/2011 10:25
 AM AST

To
 "Foster, Maureen"
 <Maureen_Foster@nps.gov>, "Barna,
 David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>,
 "Waldron, Suzanne"

<Sue_Waldron@nps.gov>, "Line,
William" <William_Line@nps.gov>
"Lee-Ashley, Matt" cc
<Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>,
"Kelly, Kate P"
<Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Viets,
Alexa" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>
Subject
RE: DC protest permit

Thanks Maureen. [REDACTED]

...that would be great.

From: Maureen_Foster@nps.gov [mailto:Maureen_Foster@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:21 AM
To: Fetcher, Adam K; Barna, David; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Cc: Lee-Ashley, Matt; Kelly, Kate P; Viets, Alexa
Subject: Re: DC protest permit

We are getting a briefing paper from the regional office and USPP today. We will also be adding it to the Hot Topics on Wednesday.

We will share that paper after we have reviewed it.

Maureen

Maureen D. Foster
202.208.5970

From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: 10/11/2011 10:16 AM AST
To: David Barna; Sue Waldron; William Line; Maureen Foster
Cc: Matt Lee-ashley; Katherine Kelly
Subject: DC protest permit

Good morning everyone. Wanted to check in on the Freedom Plaza permit issue. [REDACTED]

Thanks,
Adam

WaPo: Protesters try to extend stay in Freedom Plaza
By Teresa Tomassoni and Annie Gowen, Published: October 10

Many of the protesters who have made camp in Freedom Plaza in downtown Washington thought Monday would end with their arrests. By early evening, their organizers said they had been invited to stay.

The National Park Service, which grants permits for use of federal parkland, did not see it the same way.

The Park Service had met with organizers of the Stop the Machine group, which has camped since Thursday in the plaza just east of the White House.

But, said Park Service spokesman Bill Line, "nothing was agreed upon."

Margaret Flowers said she understood that the group had been told it could stay for four more months.

Line said there were informal talks about the possibilities of extending the permit. "Nothing was finalized," he said.

Permits have been granted for use of the plaza by other groups, he said. The parties to Monday's meeting left with the understanding that efforts would be made to see what could be arranged.

Flowers said the group would take pains to accommodate other organizations that have plans to use the plaza in the coming weeks.

Many in the group expected a different outcome. Some thought that the permit expired late Sunday and that they would need to be gone by Monday afternoon. On Monday, Flowers said, Park Police officers told them their permit actually expired Monday night.

When expulsion was thought to be imminent, some said they were determined to stay or be arrested. Anne Wright had her attorney's number written on her arm Monday.

"We'll go out nonviolently kicking and screaming," she said from a wicker chair.

"We bought one-way tickets," said Don Anderson, a Vietnam War veteran who was camping at Freedom Plaza with a friend from Los Angeles. Anderson, who is paralyzed from the waist down and spoke from a wheelchair, said he will protest until he sees improvement in the government's handling of veterans'

affairs.

The Stop the Machine group has made statements similar to the demands voiced by other groups – such as Occupy Wall Street and Occupy D.C. – that have set up in cities around the country. Protesters have expressed frustration with war, the economy and other issues.

Not far from Freedom Plaza, another protest has grown steadily in McPherson Square. In the 10 days since the Occupy D.C. group set up camp there, it has grown from a handful of protesters waving cardboard signs along K Street to a full-fledged encampment.

More than 100 people attend twice-daily general assembly meetings. Dozens have spent nights on air mattresses and in sleeping bags, then turned out for daily marches to the White House and elsewhere.

Group meetings and decision making also have taken root in Freedom Plaza. When the Park Police arrived Monday afternoon, they asked to speak with Flowers alone; she declined. She held a group meeting, whose members eventually agreed Flowers and another organizer, Kevin Zeese, could meet with police privately.

"They've been good to us so far," Zeese said of the Park Police.

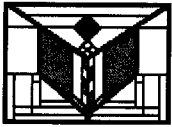
After the conversation with police, Flowers called another meeting. Members "were happy about" what they took to be the extended permit, Flowers said, though some insisted that, under the Constitution, "it was our right to to be here in the beginning."

Occupy D.C. does not have a permit to occupy McPherson Square, but members say police have left them alone so far. "No one has any plans to ask for a permit – or to leave," said Legba Carrefour, a self-described anarchist. "We haven't had any problems with police."

Staff writer Sylvia Carignan contributed to this report.

DCist: Morning Roundup: Negotiation Edition

Good morning, Washington. Last night, negotiations between protesters inside Freedom Plaza, the National Park Service and Park Police resulted in an invitation to stay -- but it's unclear for how long. Reports indicate that while nothing's official yet, the protest's organizers were under the impression that they'd be permitted to stay inside the Plaza for another four months; the National Park Service wouldn't confirm that, but did say that there were discussions about accommodating the group, despite other groups' permits to use the space. The negotiations here in D.C. stand in stark contrast to what went down in Boston last night, as police and Occupy protesters dramatically faced off in Dewey Square, with 100 eventually being arrested and cops being recorded knocking over veterans.



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:36 PM

To "Bill Line" <William_Line@nps.gov>, "Steve Lorenzetti"
<Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>
cc "Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini"
<Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>
bcc

Subject Fw: Fw: DC protest permit

How would you like us to respond?

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

----- Original Message -----

From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: 10/11/2011 12:24 PM AST
To: Alexa Viets
Cc: Maureen Foster; Jon Jarvis
Subject: RE: Fw: DC protest permit

Thanks Alexa. Are Bill Line and your press folks going to begin confirming this with reporters?

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexa_Viets@nps.gov [mailto:Alexa_Viets@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:20 PM
To: Fetcher, Adam K
Cc: Foster, Maureen; Jarvis, Jon
Subject: Fw: Fw: DC protest permit

Adam,

Ok, we understand the time line was tight. Here is a more specific update, FYI. As Maureen indicated, we'll send you a more complete briefing later today.

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Lorenzetti
Sent: 10/11/2011 12:10 PM EDT
To: Alexa Viets
Cc: Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini
Subject: Re: Fw: DC protest permit

Alexa,

We were just able to confirm the following quote

"The National Park Service and the October 6th Coalition have agreed that the permit will be issued for an extended time period, not to exceed four months and not to include dates requested by other permitted events or permit applications that are still pending."

steve

Stephen Lorenzetti
Deputy Superintendent - Planning
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000
Work: (202) 245-4662
Fax: (202) 426-9309

Alexa
Viets/ROCR/NPS

10/11/2011 12:03
PM

To
"Steve Lorenzetti"
<Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>, "Lisa
Mendelson-Ielmini"
<Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>

cc

Subject
Fw: DC protest permit

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

----- Original Message -----

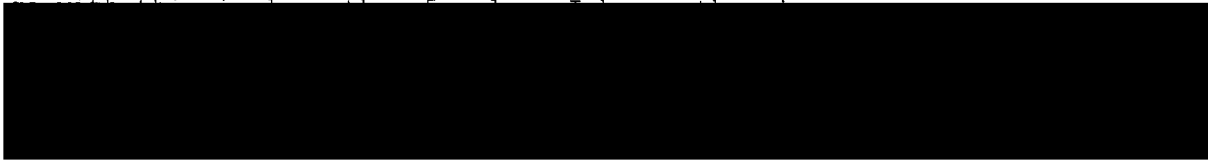
From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: 10/11/2011 11:29 AM AST

To: Alexa Viets

Cc: David Barna; Katherine Kelly; Matt Lee-ashley; Maureen Foster; Sue
Waldron; William Line

Subject: RE: DC protest permit



-----Original Message-----

From: Fetcher, Adam K
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:51 AM
To: 'Alexa_Viets@nps.gov'
Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen;
Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Subject: RE: DC protest permit

30 minutes. Just one line like the below would be outstanding.

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexa_Viets@nps.gov [mailto:Alexa_Viets@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:39 AM
To: Fetcher, Adam K
Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen;
Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Subject: RE: DC protest permit

Adam,

I am helping to coordinate the updates from the park and from USPP. What would be your deadline for the press briefing?

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

"Fetcher, Adam K"
<Adam_Fetcher@ios
.doi.gov>

10/11/2011 10:25
AM AST

"Foster, Maureen"
<Maureen_Foster@nps.gov>, "Barna,
David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>,
"Waldron, Suzanne"
<Sue_Waldron@nps.gov>, "Line,
William" <William_Line@nps.gov>

To

cc

"Lee-Ashley, Matt"
<Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>,
"Kelly, Kate P"
<Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Viets,
Alexa" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>

Subject

RE: DC protest permit



Lisa
Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:10 PM

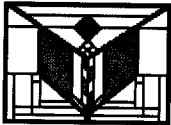
To Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS@NPS
cc "Steve Lorenzetti" <Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>, William_Line@nps.gov, David Schlosser/USPP/NPS@NPS
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: DC protest permit

Just spoke w/ Bill Line and Dave Schlosser/USPP -- fine with this line....

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
202-619-7000 office



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:03 PM

To "Steve Lorenzetti" <Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>, "Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini" <Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>
cc
Subject Fw: DC protest permit

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

----- Original Message -----

From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: 10/11/2011 11:29 AM AST
To: Alexa Viets
Cc: David Barna; Katherine Kelly; Matt Lee-ashley; Maureen Foster; Sue Waldron; William Line
Subject: RE: DC protest permit



-----Original Message-----

From: Fetcher, Adam K
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:51 AM
To: 'Alexa_Viets@nps.gov'
Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Subject: RE: DC protest permit

30 minutes. Just one line like the below would be outstanding.

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexa_Viets@nps.gov [mailto:Alexa_Viets@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:39 AM
To: Fetcher, Adam K
Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Subject: RE: DC protest permit

Adam,

I am helping to coordinate the updates from the park and from USPP. What would be your deadline for the press briefing?

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

"Fetcher, Adam K"
<Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov>

10/11/2011 10:25
AM AST

To
"Foster, Maureen"
<Maureen_Foster@nps.gov>, "Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Waldron, Suzanne" <Sue_Waldron@nps.gov>, "Line, William" <William_Line@nps.gov>

cc
"Lee-Ashley, Matt" <Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov>, "Kelly, Kate P" <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Viets, Alexa" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>

Subject
RE: DC protest permit

Thanks Maureen. [REDACTED]



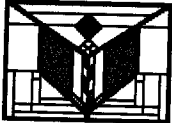
Lisa
Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:46 PM

To Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS@NPS
cc "Steve Lorenzetti" <Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>, "Bill Line" <William_Line@nps.gov>, David Schlosser/USPP/NPS@NPS, david_barna@nps.gov
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: Fw: DC protest permit

Alexa -- Current plan, just discussed w/ David Barna, is to release this afternoon a statement outlining the permitting process. Drafting of the statement has begun. Intent is to make afternoon news cycle. Will share draft. Thanks.

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
202-619-7000 office
[REDACTED]

Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:36 PM

To "Bill Line" <William_Line@nps.gov>, "Steve Lorenzetti" <Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>
cc "Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini" <Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>
Subject Fw: Fw: DC protest permit

How would you like us to respond?

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

----- Original Message -----
From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: 10/11/2011 12:24 PM AST
To: Alexa Viets
Cc: Maureen Foster; Jon Jarvis
Subject: RE: Fw: DC protest permit

Thanks Alexa. Are Bill Line and your press folks going to begin confirming this with reporters?

-----Original Message-----
From: Alexa_Viets@nps.gov [mailto:Alexa_Viets@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:20 PM
To: Fetcher, Adam K
Cc: Foster, Maureen; Jarvis, Jon
Subject: Fw: Fw: DC protest permit



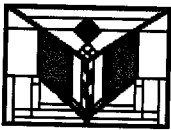
Lisa
Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:48 PM

To William_Line@nps.gov, David Schlosser/USPP/NPS@NPS
cc
bcc
Subject new information - Freedom Plaza

an update on language and status

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
202-619-7000 office
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS on 10/11/2011 12:47 PM -----



Steve Lorenzetti/NACC/NPS
10/11/2011 12:10 PM

To Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS@NPS
cc "Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini"
<Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>
Subject Re: Fw: DC protest permit

Alexa,

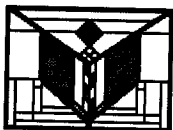
We were just able to confirm the following quote

"The National Park Service and the October 6th Coalition have agreed that the permit will be issued for an extended time period, not to exceed four months and not to include dates requested by other permitted events or permit applications that are still pending."

steve

Stephen Lorenzetti
Deputy Superintendent - Planning
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000
Work: (202) 245-4662
Fax: (202) 426-9309

Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS



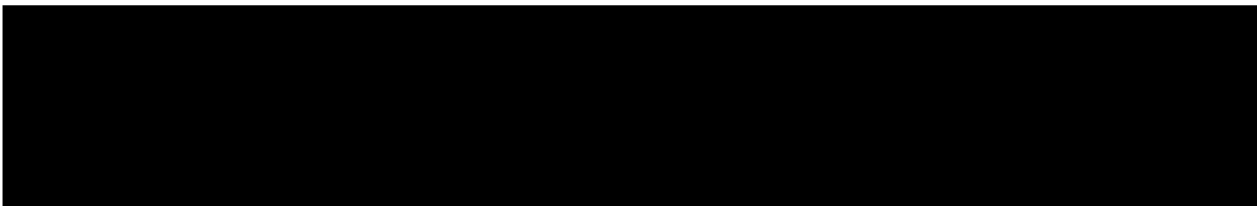
Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
10/11/2011 12:03 PM

To "Steve Lorenzetti" <Steve_Lorenzetti@nps.gov>, "Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini" <Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>
cc
Subject Fw: DC protest permit

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

----- Original Message -----

From: "Fetcher, Adam K" [Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: 10/11/2011 11:29 AM AST
To: Alexa Viets
Cc: David Barna; Katherine Kelly; Matt Lee-ashley; Maureen Foster; Sue Waldron; William Line
Subject: RE: DC protest permit



-----Original Message-----

From: Fetcher, Adam K
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:51 AM
To: 'Alexa_Viets@nps.gov'
Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Subject: RE: DC protest permit

30 minutes. Just one line like the below would be outstanding.

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexa_Viets@nps.gov [mailto:Alexa_Viets@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:39 AM
To: Fetcher, Adam K
Cc: Barna, David; Kelly, Kate P; Lee-Ashley, Matt; Foster, Maureen; Waldron, Suzanne; Line, William
Subject: RE: DC protest permit

Adam,

I am helping to coordinate the updates from the park and from USPP. What would be your deadline for the press briefing?

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144



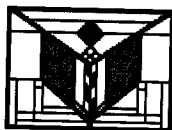
Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS
 10/11/2011 02:32 PM

To William_Line@nps.gov
 cc
 bcc
 Subject Fw: update requested - dwn tn protests

The October 6th paper may be of assistance to you....

 Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
 Deputy Regional Director
 National Park Service, National Capital Region
 202-619-7000 office
 [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS on 10/11/2011 02:32 PM -----



Steve Lorenzetti/NACC/NPS
 10/11/2011 12:56 PM

To Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS@NPS
 cc Bob Vogel/GRTE/NPS@NPS, Karen Cucurullo/NACC/NPS@NPS, Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS@NPS, Maureen Foster/WASO/NPS@NPS, Peggy O'Dell/WASO/NPS@NPS, Steve Whitesell/WASO/NPS@NPS
 Subject Re: update requested - dwn tn protests

Alexa,

Here are briefing papers for both MLK, and Freedom Plaza and McPherson Square.

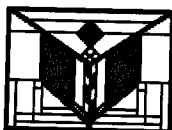
steve

Stephen Lorenzetti
 Deputy Superintendent - Planning
 National Mall and Memorial Parks
 900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20024-2000
 Work: (202) 245-4662
 Fax: (202) 426-9309



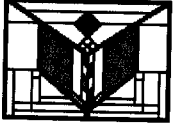
MLK Briefing Paper 2011-10-11.doc October 6th Coalition Briefing Paper 2011-10-11.docx

Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
 10/11/2011 10:25 AM

To Steve Whitesell/WASO/NPS@NPS
 cc Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS@NPS, Bob Vogel/GRTE/NPS@NPS, Karen Cucurullo/NACC/NPS@NPS, Steve



Lorenzetti/NACC/NPS@NPS, Peggy
O'Dell/WASO/NPS@NPS, Maureen
Foster/WASO/NPS@NPS
Subject update requested - dwntrn protests

Hi Steve,

Jon would like an update on the on-going Occupy DC demonstrations. Can you share with us the status of any current permits, if additional permits are anticipated and include an update from USPP as to any activity, issues or mobilization plans?

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144

BUREAU: National Park Service
MEMBER: Eleanor Holmes-Norton
ISSUE: October 6th Coalition at Freedom Plaza and Occupy DC at McPherson Square

Key Points:

- On June 2, 2011, the October 6th Coalition submitted two applications for permits to conduct a rally for peace at Freedom Plaza and Lafayette Park for October 5-6, 2011.
- On June 15, 2011 the original application dates were amended to October 5-10, 2011.
- The permit was issued for the use of Freedom Plaza and Lafayette Park on October 3, 2011.
- The permit expired on October 10, 2011 at 10:00 pm.
- The October 6th Coalition permit holders requested an amendment to extend their current application for the maximum time allotted. The maximum time allotted is four months.
- No application was ever received from Occupy DC for McPherson Square. A demonstration can occur at McPherson Square without a permit as long as the demonstration does not exceed 500 people. On October 7 there were a few hundred demonstrators on the site.

Background:

- The Permits Management Division and the United States Park Police (USPP) met with the organizers on September 13 and September 21 to discuss the perimeters of the permit.
- Permits Management and USPP met with the October 6th Coalition permit holder on October 10 to discuss contingency plans resulting from the permit expiring at 10 pm that day.
- The permittee indicated that they intended to stay at Freedom Plaza with or without a permit.
- All options were discussed relating to an extension of their permit.
- The October 6th Coalition was informed that there were pending applications for Freedom Plaza and in some cases issued permits. The permittee agreed to make space available for other permitted activities to occur at Freedom Plaza.
- The Permittee was informed that an organization can hold a permit for a four-month timeframe.

Current Status:

- The Permits Management Division and the October 6th Coalition have agreed to extend the current permit, but excluding dates with either a pending application or permitted activity.
- United States Park Police is monitoring the activity at McPherson Square.
- The Permits Management Division has contacted pending applicants to inform them of the current use of Freedom Plaza by the October 6th Coalition as well as to ascertain their interest in having a finalized permit.
- The Permits Management Division will brief Occupy DC on the permit requirements for McPherson Square if their numbers exceed 500 demonstrators. The Permits Management Division and the USPP will continue to monitor the situation at McPherson Square.

Prepared by: Superintendent Bob Vogel, National Mall and Memorial Parks, (202) 245-4661
Date: October 11, 2011



David Barna/WASO/NPS

10/11/2011 02:52 PM

To david_barna@nps.gov, adam_fetcher@ios.doi.gov,
william_line@nps.gov, Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS@NPS, Carol
B Johnson/NACC/NPS@NPS, Jeffrey Olson/WASO/NPS,

cc

bcc

Subject some thoughts on first amendment demonstrations - just
some rambling to keep in your back pocket.

For nearly 100 years, it has been the mission of the National Park Service to not only preserve and protect our nation's natural and historic resources, but also to make those areas available for use by all Americans. On occasion, that use transcends mere education or recreation, as evidenced by the recent rally of the *October 6th Coalition* in Washington, DC.

National parks provide a forum in which citizens can exercise their constitutional rights, including the freedom of speech and assembly. The United States Constitution guarantees everyone the right to speak freely and to assemble peaceably, regardless of the content of their message.

In approving the request of the *October 6th Coalition* to demonstrate in Washington, DC, the National Park Service is not condoning the message being delivered by their members. Rather, we are providing an arena in which they can deliver their message, the validity of which will ultimately be decided by those who hear it.

And of course we are providing the opportunity for those with a dissenting point of view to make their beliefs known as well.

The National Park Service hosts hundreds of First Amendment activities each year at its nearly 400 sites across the country. Though the messages delivered are as diverse as the parks that host them, the one constant is that each of those assemblies is a living, breathing example of our nation's democratic ideals and freedoms.

The management of the National Park Service has worked diligently in planning for these First Amendment activities to ensure that everyone, visitors and demonstrators alike, will find a safe atmosphere in which to visit.



Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS
10/11/2011 03:56 PM

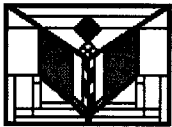
To William_Line@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject alexa cell phone # fyi

History: This message has been replied to.

Alexa's cell phone # is below

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
202-619-7000 office
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS on 10/11/2011 03:56 PM -----



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
10/11/2011 03:52 PM

To Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc
Subject Re: Lisa, Bill - question about - DC protest permit

No problem. I got your voicemail message. For future reference, my cell is [REDACTED]

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144
Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini

----- Original Message -----

From: Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini
Sent: 10/11/2011 03:46 PM EDT
To: Alexa Viets
Subject: Re: Lisa, Bill - question about - DC protest permit

Thanks much Alexa.

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
202-619-7000 office
202-297-1338 cell

Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS



Alexa Viets/ROCR/NPS
10/11/2011 03:20 PM

To Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc
Subject Re: Lisa, Bill - question about - DC protest permit



Yes, we are sending updates to Adam shortly. When we had a chance to update Jon he wanted to wait on PR.

Thanks,
Alexa

Alexa Viets
National Park Service
(202) 501-7144
Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini

----- Original Message -----

From: Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini
Sent: 10/11/2011 03:14 PM EDT
To: Alexa Viets

Subject: Fw: Lisa, Bill - question about - DC protest permit

Just closing the loop - heard from Bill that through David we're not going to publish a release today -- will WASO be closing the loop w/ DOI? Thanks much.

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
202-619-7000 office

----- Forwarded by Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS on 10/11/2011 03:11 PM -----



"Fetcher, Adam K"
<Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov>
>

10/11/2011 01:34 PM

To "Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Mendelson, Lisa" <Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>, "Line, William" <William_Line@nps.gov>, "Viets, Alexa" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>

cc

Subject RE: Lisa, Bill - question about - DC protest permit

Thanks- please update as soon as you are able.

-----Original Message-----

From: David_Barna@nps.gov [mailto:David_Barna@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:53 PM
To: Fetcher, Adam K; Mendelson, Lisa; Line, William; Viets, Alexa
Subject: Lisa, Bill - question about - DC protest permit

Lisa

Can you answer Adams question?

David



Jo-Ann Armao
<armaoj@washpost.com>
10/11/2011 04:13 PM

To william_line@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject here's the quote. also

Bill Line, spokesman for the Parks Service, told us the extra effort was being made because "we hold the First Amendment in high regard. . . we are aware of the need to accommodate free speech and expression as much as we can."

Bill Line, spokesman for the Parks Service, told us the extra effort was being made because "we hold the First Amendment in high regard. . . we are aware of the need to accommodate free speech and expression as much as we can."

wanted to confirm the other events that have permits: Gray's rally for democracy, yoga demonstration and leukemia event...



Jo-Ann Armao
<armaoj@washpost.com>

10/11/2011 04:20 PM

To william_line@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject changed a little

History:

✉ This message has been replied to.

Bill Line, spokesman for the Parks Service, told us efforts were underway to reach an agreement because "we hold the First Amendment in high regard. . . we are aware of the need to accommodate free speech and expression as much as we can."



Jo-Ann Armao
<armaoj@washpost.com>
10/11/2011 05:29 PM

To William_Line@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Re: changed a little

great got it.....



Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS
10/11/2011 08:45 PM

To William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc
bcc
Subject Re: NEWS RELEASE -- National Park Service Issues Permit Amendment for October 6th Coalition Use of Freedom Plaza

Thanks so much, Lisa

Lisa A Mendelson-Ielmini, AICP
Deputy Regional Director
National Capital Region NPS
202 619 7023 office

William Line

----- Original Message -----

From: William Line
Sent: 10/11/2011 08:37 PM EDT

Subject: NEWS RELEASE -- National Park Service Issues Permit Amendment for October 6th Coalition Use of Freedom Plaza

Dear News Colleagues:

Attached please find a news release regarding the National Park Service issuing an amendment to the permit for the use of Freedom Plaza by the October 6th Coalition. We invite your coverage. Please call if you have any questions.



Experience Your America

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Office of Communications News

Release

Release Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2011

For Immediate Release

Bill Line, Toni Braxton 202 619-7400; Carol B. Johnson, 202-245-4700

National Park Service Issues Permit Amendment for October 6th Coalition

Use of Freedom Plaza

Washington, D.C. - The National Park Service (NPS) has issued an amendment to the permit held by the October 6th Coalition for First Amendment activities at Freedom Plaza. The amendment allows the October 6th Coalition to use Freedom Plaza through December 30th at 10:00 p.m., excluding dates for which permits have been issued or are pending for that location. The NPS has offered the Coalition alternate demonstration locations for those dates. The NPS has contacted all groups and organizations who have finalized permits as well as those groups or organizations with permit applications pending for use of Freedom Plaza.

-NPS-

Thanks!

Bill Line

Communications & Tourism Officer

National Park Service

National Capital Region

1100 Ohio Drive, SW

Washington, D.C. 20242

Main office: (202) 619-7222; direct dial: (202) 619-7177; cell: [REDACTED]; Fax: (202) 619-7302



David Barna/WASO/NPS
10/12/2011 08:15 AM

To David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS, Frances
Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Barbara
Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Kathy Kupper, Rick Lewis, Jody

cc

bcc

Subject newscip: Washington Post: For Freedom Plaza protesters,
freedom reigns

Washington Post

For Freedom Plaza protesters, freedom reigns

Editorial, October 11

PROTESTERS ENCAMPED at Freedom Plaza fully expected to be arrested Monday after their permit for use of the downtown site expired. They were not: The decision by the National Park Service to avoid a confrontation by working out a solution was the right one. If any city should go the extra mile to accommodate free expression, it's Washington, D.C. The onus is now on the demonstrators to show that they can be reasonable in cooperating with authorities so that their presence doesn't infringe on the rights of others.

Since Thursday, hundreds of protesters aligned with the Oct. 6 Coalition and other groups decrying war, economic disparities, money in politics and other causes have occupied the Pennsylvania Avenue plaza just east of the White House. A permit for the protest expired Monday, and park officials, no doubt mindful of the ugly scenes of like-minded protesters being arrested in other cities, sought to reach some agreement with the group.

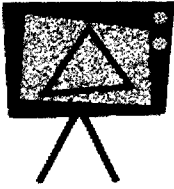
After a meeting with protest leaders, the Park Service on Tuesday extended the permit through Dec. 30. Bill Line, spokesman for the Park Service, told us efforts were made to reach an agreement because "we hold the First Amendment in high regard, we are aware of the need to accommodate free speech and expression as much as we can."

One issue that had to be resolved was the use of the plaza by other groups that have obtained permits or have permits pending. D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D), for example, has plans for a Saturday rally for full democracy for the District. A yoga group is set to conduct a demonstration, and another organization has an event to raise funds to fight leukemia. Protest leader Kevin Zeese told us that he was sure there were people from his group who would be interested in doing yoga, rallying for justice for the District and fighting leukemia. But in any event, the Park Service offered the protesters alternative demonstration sites for dates already offered to other groups.

So far, the group has shown itself to be a good neighbor: Vigilant attention is paid to trash, noise has not been a problem and relations with police have been respectful. Organizers say they are committed to nonviolence and the protests have been largely peaceful; a handful of people were arrested Tuesday at the Hart Senate Office Building, and an incident at the National Air and

Space Museum over the weekend appears to have been started by an outside provocateur.

Public reaction to the Freedom Plaza protest — as well as a smaller encampment at McPherson Square — has been mostly nonchalant, if not accepting. We find that reassuring. No one has to agree with the sentiments — and sometimes they are hard to discern — of this ragtag protest, but the protesters should be given their space.



Judy Bowman/NCR/NPS
10/12/2011 04:21 PM

To Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS@NPS, William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS, Bob Vogel/NAMA/NPS@NPS, Steve Lorenzetti/NACC/NPS@NPS
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Protestor Encampments at Freedom Plaza/McPherson Square

----- Forwarded by Judy Bowman/NCR/NPS on 10/12/2011 04:21 PM -----



Richard Bradley
<bradley@downtowndc.org>
10/12/2011 02:10 PM

To "Steve_whitesell@NPS.gov" <Steve_whitesell@NPS.gov>
cc "Robert_Vogel@nps.gov" <Robert_Vogel@nps.gov>, "paul.quander@dc.gov" <paul.quander@dc.gov>, "christopher.murphy@dc.gov" <christopher.murphy@dc.gov>, "Kevin_Hay@nps.gov" <Kevin_Hay@nps.gov>, "Kathleen_Harasek@nps.gov" <Kathleen_Harasek@nps.gov>, "jackevans@dccouncil.us" <jackevans@dccouncil.us>
Subject Protestor Encampments at Freedom Plaza/McPherson Square

October 12, 2011

Mr. Steve Whitesell
Capital Regional Director
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive SW
Washington DC 20242-0001

Dear Director Whitesell:

The Downtown Business Improvement District would welcome a chance to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss the protestors' encampments at Freedom Plaza and McPherson Square. We are finding ourselves playing a significant role in maintaining order.

While the Downtown BID recognizes the Constitutional rights of Americans to protest, we also respect the rights of Downtown's 180,000 workers and 8,500 residents to enjoy a safe and healthy Downtown environment.

We would like to know the following:

1. Who should be our point of contact at NPS? Park Police?
2. Where protestors have permits, what are the terms and conditions of the permits? How are the terms and conditions being enforced?
3. Where protestors do not have permits, are permits being processed?
4. Are the Park Police providing 24/7 patrols at Freedom Plaza and McPherson Square?

5. Is NPS allowing for provision of public toilets and public showers?
6. Are the Park Police regulating strictly the use of propane and other flammable materials?
7. How is coordination being handled with the city—especially the Metropolitan Police Department and Department of Public Works?
8. Does NPS intend to devote significant resources to resodding and other redemptive parks measures once the protests have ended.

We are also attempting to coordinate with DC government about related matters.

We look forward to meeting soon.

The Downtown BID appreciates its 14-year partnership with NPS and the Park Police. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Bradley
Executive Director

Richard H. Bradley
Executive Director
DowntownDC Business Improvement District
1250 H Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-661-7561 Direct
202-661-7598 Fax



www.downtowndc.org Whitesell.Emcampment.10.12.11.pdf



Business Improvement District

October 12, 2011

Mr. Steve Whitesell
Capital Regional Director
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive SW
Washington DC 20242-0001

Dear Director Whitesell:

The Downtown Business Improvement District would welcome a chance to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss the protestors' encampments at Freedom Plaza and McPherson Square. We are finding ourselves playing a significant role in maintaining order.

While the Downtown BID recognizes the Constitutional rights of Americans to protest, we also respect the rights of Downtown's 180,000 workers and 8,500 residents to enjoy a safe and healthy Downtown environment.

We would like to know the following:

1. Who should be our point of contact at NPS? Park Police?
2. Where protestors have permits, what are the terms and conditions of the permits? How are the terms and conditions being enforced?
3. Where protestors do not have permits, are permits being processed?
4. Are the Park Police providing 24/7 patrols at Freedom Plaza and McPherson Square?
5. Is NPS allowing for provision of public toilets and public showers?
6. Are the Park Police regulating strictly the use of propane and other flammable materials?
7. How is coordination being handled with the city—especially the Metropolitan Police Department and Department of Public Works?
8. Does NPS intend to devote significant resources to resodding and other redemptive parks measures once the protests have ended.

We are also attempting to coordinate with DC government about related matters.

We look forward to meeting soon.

The Downtown BID appreciates its 14-year partnership with NPS and the Park Police. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Bradley
Executive Director



"Morrow Family"
[REDACTED]
10/13/2011 08:30 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>
cc
bcc William Line/NCR/NPS
Subject DC Examiner: Businesses growing wary of McPherson Square occupation

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/2011/10/businesses-growing-wary-mcpherson-square-occupation>

Washington (DC) Examiner
Thursday, October 13, 2011

Businesses growing wary of McPherson Square occupation

By: [Liz Farmer](#)

An organization that promotes downtown businesses is prodding the National Park Service to have a heavier hand in monitoring the growing encampment of the Occupy D.C. protesters in McPherson Square.

In a letter to businesses this week, the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District Executive Director Richard Bradley said he has contacted the Park Service to express his concern.

"While the Downtown BID recognizes First Amendment rights, we question NPS allowing overnight stays, structures to be erected in the parks and cooking using flammable materials," the letter said.

The group has been stationed there since Oct. 1. They do not have a permit because the park service does not allow camping at the square.

Bradley later told The Washington Examiner that he was especially concerned about the stoves in the group's food tent.

"We just want to make sure ... that the safety and well being of everyone is cared for and [clarify] who's responsible for ensuring that," Bradley said.

The group took up occupation of the square, just two blocks from the White House and in the heart of D.C.'s financial district, as part of the Occupy Wall Street movement that began in New York City last month and spread to other cities. The demonstrations speak out against corporate lobbying in government.

A spokesman for the U.S. Park Police on Thursday said officers were monitoring the square.

More than one dozen tents take up more than a quarter of the square's green space, which has been partially covered with cardboard and boards as the foot traffic and rain has turned the grass into mud. A food tent run by protesters who are professional cooks also feeds the homeless and receives boxes of food every day from citizens and businesses.

Cooks on Thursday said they were not concerned about a fire hazard but hoped to switch to an electric stove soon.

Other demonstrators at the park said they were not trying to be disruptive, although they acknowledged camping was not permitted in the square.

"You see anyone drinking or smoking pot, you tell me," said Joe Gray, 23. "That's not what we're about."

Terry Lynch, director of the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, said the protesters "just need to make sure the park stays clean and usable for everyone."

A separate group, October 2011, is similarly stationed in Freedom Plaza. That group has obtained a permit from the Park Service, although it does not permit does not allow camping.

lfarmer@washingtonexaminer.com



"Glenn"

10/19/2011 10:32 AM

To <William_Line@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Occupy DC at McPherson Square

Mr. Line,

I have been swapping emails with several reporters, bloggers, and the ombudsman at the Washington Post regarding the ongoing protests in NPS park properties in DC, particularly the "Occupy DC" group in McPherson Square. And, most particularly about the camping, tenting, sleeping over, and cooking by demonstrators in the park that is in direct violation of federal regulations.

The Post apparently has been too deferential in seeking out explanation of why these protestors have been allowed to violate federal regulations for over two weeks without any explanation from the National Park Service.

- The Post has described the event in McPherson Square as "a bustling tent city full of people with no intention of leaving,"
- The Post has also noted that the protestors flaunt their violation of federal regulations: "Occupy D.C. does not have a permit to occupy McPherson Square, but members say police have left them alone so far. 'No one has any plans to ask for a permit — or to leave,' said Legba Carrefour, a self-described anarchist. 'We haven't had any problems with police.'"

The Washington Examiner has charged that the "U.S. Park Police is turning a blind eye to the protesters sleeping there" and noted that "The U.S. Park Police did not respond to multiple requests for comment."

As a citizen who expects government agencies to respond to questions regarding the enforcement of regulations or lack thereof, I am seeking an explanation from you for NPS' justification for allowing the encampment to continue.

I have read the pertinent regulations in C.F.R., Title 36, Chapter 1, Section 7.96, and I also see that 19 demonstrators were arrested two days ago for violating federal regulations by protesting on the steps of the Supreme Court. It is unclear why the NPS selectively enforces regulations regarding demonstrations.

Given the NPS' lack of response to the *Washington Examiner's* inquiries, I will be sending a copy of this email to my two senators and elected representatives.

Regards,

Glenn Merritt

Vienna, VA

Park Police turn blind eye to illegal sleepovers

<http://campaign2012.washingtonexaminer.com/blogs/beltway-confidential/park-police-turn-blind-eye-illegal-sleepovers>

by Conn Carroll Senior Editorial Writer

It is against federal regulations to sleep in National Capital Parks like McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza, but the U.S. Park Police is turning a blind eye to the protesters sleeping there.

36 CFR 7.96(i) reads :

Camping. (1) Camping is defined as the use of park land for living accommodation purposes such as sleeping activities, or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping), or storing personal belongings, or making any fire, or using any tents or shelter or other structure or vehicle for sleeping or doing any digging or earth breaking or carrying on cooking activities. The above-listed activities constitute camping when it reasonably appears, in light of all the circumstances, that the participants, in conducting these activities, are in fact using the area as a living accommodation regardless of the intent of the participants or the nature of any other activities in which they may also be engaging. Camping is permitted only in areas designated by the Superintendent, who may establish limitations of time allowed for camping in any public campground. Upon the posting of such limitations in the campground, no person shall camp for a period longer than that specified for the particular campground.

The National Park Service National Capitol Region Office has confirmed that McPherson Square has not been designated as a camping area. It is obvious to any nighttime or early-morning passer-by that the Occupy D.C. protesters are sleeping overnight in the tents pitched there. Yet the U.S. Park Police has done nothing to enforce the law. (my emphasis)

The Freedom Plaza protesters may be on firmer ground. The Stop the Machine! protest group, referred to as the "October 6th coalition" by the National Park Service, had secured a permit to use Freedom Plaza on October 6th long before the Occupy movement began. After that group's permit formally expired, the National Park Service entered into negotiations for an extension of their permit.

Earlier this week, NPS granted the October 6th group a permit extension for Freedom Plaza through December 31st. Protesters at Freedom Plaza must make room for other groups that already have permits to use Freedom Plaza, or have applications in the pipeline to get one. In addition, NPS agreed to allow tents on the plaza on the condition that they are open to inspection by Park Police on a 24-hour basis.

36 CFR 7.96(g) does seem to allow this discretion :

(vi) In connection with permitted demonstrations or special events, temporary structures may be erected for the purpose of symbolizing a message or meeting logistical needs such as first aid facilities, lost children areas or the provision of shelter for electrical and other sensitive equipment or displays. Temporary structures may not be used outside designated camping areas for living accommodation activities such as sleeping, or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping), or storing personal belongings, or making any fire, or doing any digging or earth breaking or carrying on cooking activities. The above-listed activities constitute camping when it reasonably appears, in light of all the circumstances, that the participants, in conducting these activities, are in fact using the area as a living accommodation regardless of the intent of the participants or the nature of any other activities in which they may also be engaging. Temporary structures are permitted to the extent described above, provided prior notice has been given to the Regional Director, except that:

(A) Structures are not permitted on the White House sidewalk.

(B) All such temporary structures shall be erected in such a manner so as not to harm park resources unreasonably and shall be removed as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the permitted demonstration or special event.

(C) The Regional Director may impose reasonable restrictions upon the use of temporary structures in the interest of protecting the park areas involved, traffic and public safety considerations, and other legitimate park value concerns.

(D) Any structures utilized in a demonstration extending in duration beyond the time limitations specified in paragraphs (g)(5)(iv) (A) and (B) of this section shall be capable of being removed upon 24 hours notice and the site restored, or, the structure shall be secured in such a fashion so as not to interfere unreasonably with use of the park area by other permittees authorized under this section.

It's hard to see how much "prior notice" the October 6th group gave the Regional Director about their intention to set up camp in Freedom Plaza, but his office has agreed to allow the encampment. However, the National Park Service has confirmed that the permit for the use of Freedom Plaza does not extend to McPherson Square.

The U.S. Park Police did not respond to multiple requests for comment. (my emphasis)

The Washington Examiner

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/2011/10/businesses-growing-wary-mcpherson-square-occupation>

Businesses growing wary of McPherson Square occupation

By: [Liz Farmer](#) | 10/13/11 8:05 PM

"Occupy D.C "protester Joe Gray of Gaithersburg says he plans on staying in the District for as long as he can to voice his disdain against "corporate America."-Graeme Jennings/Examiner

An organization that promotes downtown businesses is prodding the National Park Service to have a heavier hand in monitoring the growing encampment of the Occupy D.C. protesters in McPherson Square.

In a letter to businesses this week, the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District Executive Director Richard Bradley said he has contacted the park service to express his concern.

"While the Downtown BID recognizes First Amendment rights, we question **NPS allowing overnight stays, structures to be erected in the parks and cooking using flammable materials,**" the letter said.

The group has been stationed there since Oct. 1. It does not have a permit

because the park service does not allow camping at the square.

Bradley later told *The Washington Examiner* that he was especially concerned about the stoves in the group's food tent.

"We just want to make sure ... that the safety and well being of everyone is cared for and [clarify] who's responsible for ensuring that," Bradley said.

The group took up occupation of the square, just two blocks from the White House and in the heart of D.C.'s financial district, as part of the Occupy Wall Street movement that began in New York City last month and spread to other cities. The demonstrations speak out against corporate influence in government.

A spokesman for the U.S. Park Police on Thursday said officers were monitoring the square.

More than a dozen tents take up more than a quarter of the square's green space, which has been partially covered with cardboard and boards as foot traffic and rain have turned the grass into mud. A food tent run by protesters who are professional cooks also feeds the homeless and receives boxes of food every day from citizens and businesses.

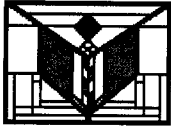
Cooks on Thursday said they were not concerned about a fire hazard but hoped to switch to an electric stove soon.

Other demonstrators at the park said they were not trying to be disruptive, although they acknowledged camping was not permitted in the square.

"You see anyone drinking or smoking pot, you tell me," said Joe Gray, 23. "That's not what we're about."

Terry Lynch, director of the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, said the protesters "just need to make sure the park stays clean and usable for everyone."

A separate group, October 2011, is similarly stationed in Freedom Plaza. That group has obtained a permit from the park service, although the permit does not allow camping.



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS
10/19/2011 11:23 AM

To Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS, William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc pstarr@cnsnews.com
bcc
Subject Freedom Plaza Permitting Fw: From NPS.gov: FOIA Request

Hi Margie & Bill,

This one just showed up in the FOIA general mailbox. However, Penny had called me a few minutes ago to let me know she goofed on one of the dates she listed.

She meant to ask for the "October 2011 and Occupy DC contacts" not October 2012.

Thanks,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." - Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

----- Forwarded by Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS on 10/19/2011 09:19 AM -----



pstarr@cnsnews.com
10/19/2011 08:38 AM

To npsfoia@nps.gov
cc
Subject From NPS.gov: FOIA Request

Email submitted from: foia-contact.htm

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act.

What park are you requesting records from? (If you do not know please enter N/A.)
Freedom Plaza

Please describe the record(s) you are seeking so that an employee familiar with the subject area of the request may locate the record(s) with a reasonable amount of effort. Please include descriptive information, time frame to be

searched, etc.

I am seeking any any and all communications between the U.S. Park Service and outside contacts regarding the permitting process of Freedom Plaza from May 2011 to the present or Oct. 19, 2011, including, but not limited to, the October 2012 and Occupy DC contacts. These communications include all documents, e-mails, letters, memorandums, notes, pdfs, audio files, recordings, photographs, videos, etc.

Are you asking for expedited processing of your request?

Yes

If so, why?

To fulfill the requirements of timely news reporting.

Are you filing a request on behalf of another party?

No

If so, which party?

Fees and Waivers

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am:

News Media affiliated with: CNS News

Are you willing to pay for the processing of your FOIA request?

Yes

If so, how much?

\$25.00

Checked Please check if you would prefer an estimate of fees prior to processing.

Please note: If you are not willing to pay, the National Park Service may not be able to process your request depending on the fees involved. The fee schedule is located at <http://www.doi.gov/foia/fees.html>.

Are you requesting a statutory fee waiver?

Yes

If so, please justify?

news organization seeking information to disseminate to the public

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Your Name: penny starr

How to Contact You:

Email Address pstarr@cnsnews.com

Your postal address is required for the National Park Service to mail any responsive documents to you.

Mailing Address

Street Address: 325 So. Patrick St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip / Postal Code: 22314
This Address is: Business Address

Name of Organization: CNS News
Phone No.: 703-548-5689
Fax No.:





Solomon Keene
<solomon@hawdc.com>
10/19/2011 12:15 PM

To "Miriam_Hornstein@nps.gov"
<Miriam_Hornstein@nps.gov>
cc "William_Line@nps.gov" <William_Line@nps.gov>,
"Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov" <Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov>
bcc
Subject RE: Occupy DC Permit

Wonderful, thank you Miriam. [REDACTED]. We have found the information that we need; thank you for your response.

-Solomon

Solomon Keene, Jr.
President
Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.
1201 New York Avenue, NW Suite 601
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-0193 Direct
(202) 289-8849 Fax

Committed to Our City!

- Travelers to DC generate nearly \$620 million in tax revenue, accounting for 13% of the city's total budget
- Hotels alone generate more than \$207 million in tax collections for our city
- Hospitality High School of Washington, DC has graduated over 200 students with a 95% college acceptance rate

From: Miriam_Hornstein@nps.gov [mailto:Miriam_Hornstein@nps.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 12:14 PM
To: Solomon Keene
Cc: William_Line@nps.gov; Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Occupy DC Permit

Hello Solomon,

My apologies for not getting back to sooner, b [REDACTED]

At any rate, the person to contact about the specifics of the permit extension granted to the Occupy DC group is the Public Information Officer for the National Capitol Region, William (Bill) Line. His email address is: William_Line@nps.gov and his office phone number is: 202-619-7177.

Alternatively, you could try getting ahold of the Public Information Officer for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, Carol Johnson. Her email address is: Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov and she can be reached at: 202-485-9880 which is the park's headquarters.

Those two work with the Park Programs office and the U.S. Park Police on a daily basis so they will have all of the details about what specifics were written into the permit extension

to deal with the long-term nature of the group.

Hope that helps!

Miriam

Acting Volunteer Program Manager
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Dr, SW
Washington D.C. 20024

Office: 202-245-4688

Fax: 202-426-1835

-----Solomon Keene <solomon@hawdc.com> wrote: -----
To: "miriam_hornstein@nps.gov" <miriam_hornstein@nps.gov>
From: Solomon Keene <solomon@hawdc.com>
Date: 10/13/2011 10:45
Subject: Occupy DC Permit
Hello Miriam,

I hope that you're well. We serve on the National Cherry Blossom Festival Board together. We sat next to one another at the meeting a few weeks ago. I'm hoping that you can point me in the right direction to get a sense of what the permits issued by the US Park Police to the Occupy DC protestors entail. As you know, we have three hotels on the perimeter of Freedom Plaza and they simply want to know what the protestors are allowed and not allowed to do. I'm certain that you've seen the tents, trash, and other activities that could lead to the rodent issues that we've seen in the past on Freedom Plaza.

Our Members understand that protests are a part of being in DC but we need to have a better sense of what these permits allow. Please let me know if I can find this information in the public domain or if there is anyone that I could speak with. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Solomon
Solomon Keene, Jr.
President
Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.
1201 New York Avenue, NW Suite 601
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-0193 Direct
(202) 289-8849 Fax

Committed to Our City!

-Travelers to DC generate nearly \$620 million in tax revenue, accounting for 13% of the city's total budget

- Hotels alone generate more than \$207 million in tax collections for our city

- Hospitality High School of Washington, DC has graduated over 200 students with a 95% college acceptance rate



image001.gif

Stephanie Clark/USPP/NPS

10/21/2011 05:12 AM

To

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Notification - ADW Knife - McPherson Park

I homeless man that was living with the Occupy DC group in McPherson Park was arrested for ADW Knife. Several complainants identified him as threatening them with the knife.

Lieutenant Stephanie Clark
Shift Commander
United States Park Police
202-610-3505 Office
[REDACTED]

This E-mail may contain confidential information. If you are not the addressee or the intended recipient please do not read this E-mail and please immediately delete this e-mail message and any attachments from your workstation or network mail system. If you are the addressee or the intended recipient and you save or print a copy of this E-mail, please place it in an appropriate file, depending on whether confidential information is contained in the message.



David Barna/WASO/NPS

10/26/2011 06:57 AM

To David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS, Frances
Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Barbara
Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Kathy Kupper, Rick Lewis, Jody

cc

bcc

Subject newscip: Wash Post/ AP : As some cities crack down on
anti-Wall Street protesters, tent cities in DC continue to
expand

Washington Post / AP

As some cities crack down on anti-Wall Street protesters, tent cities in DC continue to expand

By Associated Press

October 25

WASHINGTON — While police and neighbors in some cities are losing patience with anti-Wall Street protests, demonstrators in the nation's capital are continuing to expand their tent cities with little interference.

Authorities in several cities have started arresting or threatening to evict demonstrators, in part because of concerns about noise, sanitation and health.

But in Washington, a city accustomed to protests, relations between police and participants in two similar, open-ended demonstrations have been largely peaceful. McPherson Square was packed with more than 100 tents Tuesday, and there were more than 60 tents in Freedom Plaza a few blocks away.

At McPherson Square, Wes Kirkpatrick of the Occupy D.C. movement was hanging leaflets Tuesday afternoon with information about arrests and confrontations between police and protesters in other cities. U.S. Park Police are patrolling the square twice daily but have done little else, and officers have given no indication they plan to start arresting or evicting the protesters, said Kirkpatrick, 27.

Police are arresting protesters "everywhere but here, essentially," Kirkpatrick said. He said he believed Occupy D.C. was benefiting from its location just blocks from the White House and said he did not expect the federal government to crack down on the demonstration.

Assemblies in McPherson Square don't require permits as long as they don't exceed 500 people, but people are barred from camping or cooking there, and the demonstrators are doing both in plain view of police.

McPherson Square is surrounded by businesses, including banks, restaurants and law firms, but Kirkpatrick said there had been few if any confrontations with local merchants and residents. Bill Line, a National Park Service spokesman, said the park service decided recently to start picking up trash twice a day in the square because of concerns about buildup. He also said police were counting the protesters and would take action if their numbers exceeded 500.

Patrick Segui, who owns a hair salon on McPherson Square, said the demonstration hasn't harmed his business.

"There hasn't been any trouble. As far as protesting, that's the way to do it. They're very clean," Segui said. "Politically, it's a different story, but we don't need to go there."

Ayanna Brown, general manager of the popular restaurant Georgia Brown's, said the protesters and the restaurant have coexisted peacefully, and she noted that most of the staff supports them.

"They don't even come in and ask to use the restroom," Brown said. "We were concerned mostly about trash. We can get rats if we don't maintain a certain level of cleanliness, and they have done that."

The demonstrators in Freedom Plaza have a permit that runs through Dec. 30, but they are also camping and cooking in defiance of park service rules. Kevin Zeese, an organizer of the October 2011 Stop the Machine demonstration, said officers patrolling the plaza have told him "they're getting pressure to evict us." But he said demonstrators would return if they were kicked out.

The park service was planning to hand out leaflets to the Freedom Plaza protesters addressing health and safety matters that they're expected to abide by, Line said.

Freedom Plaza is bordered by local and federal government buildings, the National Theater and a Marriott hotel. Zeese said he hasn't heard any complaints from neighbors.

"I would guess the Marriott's \$500-a-night rooms aren't too happy, but they haven't said anything to us," he said.



"Morrow Family"
<morrow-family@cox.net>
10/26/2011 08:21 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>
cc
bcc William Line/NCR/NPS
Subject Wash Post/AP: US Park Police planning outreach, education campaign for demonstrators camping in DC

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/us-park-police-planning-outreach-education-campaign-for-demonstrators-camping-in-dc/2011/10/26/gIQArFwVJM_story.html

Washington Post
Post Local blog
Wednesday, October 26, 2011

US Park Police planning outreach, education campaign for demonstrators camping in DC

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Park Police continue to take a largely hands-off approach to two demonstrations in Washington similar to the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York.

Protesters are camping out in two squares controlled by the National Park Service — McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza. The gatherings are not illegal, but camping and cooking on park service property is against regulations.

Sgt. David Schlosser, a park police spokesman, says the agency will be launching an informal outreach and education campaign to inform the demonstrators about the park service's expectations for their activities. He declined to comment Wednesday on what police would do if demonstrators continue violating the rules.

Protesters at McPherson Square say they don't feel threatened by police, but at Freedom Plaza, organizers say they expect to be kicked out.



"Kenney, Kevin"
<KKenney@wusa9.com>
10/27/2011 07:31 PM

To "David_Schlosser@nps.gov" <David_Schlosser@nps.gov>
cc "William_Line@nps.gov" <William_Line@nps.gov>
bcc
Subject Cost of Occupy DC Encampments

Gentlemen,

Do either of you have a handle on what the two Occupy DC encampments are/ have cost the Park Service? WUSA is interested in total costs, for safety, clean up, other maintenance, etc. Several cities around the country are reporting the Occupy costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars since the protests began.

We trying to get the cost figures for the protests here.

Thanks,

Kevin Kenney
Assignment Editor
WUSA9-TV
202 895 5700



"Morrow Family"
<morrow-family@cox.net>
10/27/2011 09:19 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
cc
bcc William Line/NCR/NPS
Subject National Park Service Distributes Rules for Occupied
McPherson Square

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/National-Park-Service-Distributes-Rules-for-Occupied-McPherson-Square-132729058.html>

WWRC (Washington, DC) NBC-tv
Thursday, October 27, 2011

National Park Service Distributes Rules for Occupied McPherson Square Campers reminded camping is not permitted

U.S. Park Police and protesters are getting along fine so far at the McPherson Square tent city, but the National Park Service is concerned about keeping things safe and tidy so their guests can continue some good, clean demonstrating.

NPS is posting and distributing rules and regulations at McPherson Square with the hope of keeping the park beautiful.

In particular, NPS wants to protect Gen. McPherson. Demonstrators are asked not to eat or drink at the base of the statue to prevent permanent stains. Nor should anything be attached to the statue or any of the trees and plants in the park.

To protect the grass, temporary structures like tents with flooring should be moved every four days to allow the turf to get sun and water. Last week, the *Washington Examiner* reported new grass installed earlier this year is already dead and could cost \$200,000 to replace.

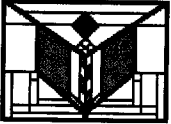
For safety's sake, any generator should be surrounded by 3-foot-high fencing. For nature's sake, they must be on matting of three-quarter inch plywood or other NPS approved material covered by some absorbent material and a tarp to keep fuel off the ground. Drip pans are required under any nozzle, and refueling is limited to between 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. Campers can't store the fuel at the park.

NPS recommended at least one portable toilet per 300 people and promised to collect trash three times a day.

On Tuesday, more than 100 tents packed the square, the Associated Press reported. Assemblies of 500 or fewer don't require permits for the square, but cooking and camping -- defined as "the

use of park land for living accommodation purposes such as sleeping activities, or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping) or storing personal belongings, or making any fire, or using any tents or shelter or other structure or vehicle for sleeping or doing any digging or earth breaking ... “ -- are prohibited, though ongoing.

NPS advised that Park Police is monitoring McPherson Square for compliance with these rules.



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS

10/28/2011 04:45 PM

To jeffrey.light@yahoo.com

cc William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS, Margie
Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS, Janeen Tyson/USPP/NPS@NPS

bcc

Subject OccupyDC FOIA request clarification questions

Mr. Light,



I received your October 24, 2011 FOIA request in today's mail. [light occupy dc foia.PDF](#)

However, we cannot begin processing it because it is not currently clear which of the 395+ NPS park, regional and field offices you are seeking records from. While I am assuming that you are only looking for records from NPS sites and offices located in Washington, D.C., e.g. the National Capital Region, the National Mall or the US Park Police, we cannot base our processing of your request on such assumptions. We must instead clarify the scope of your request.

Your request also did not provide us with enough information to determine which fee category you belong to. Again, we could assume that you are OTHER and thus would be entitled to 2 free hours of search time and 100 free pages, but simply indicating that you have no commercial or personal interest in the information does not provide us with enough information. So again, since we are not supposed to base our FOIA responses on assumptions, I am contacting you for clarification.

Please be aware that since you have specifically requested e-mail documents and our central e-mail server only retains 30 days worth of e-mail messages, as currently worded your request will require that employees, within the locations you are asking for records from, perform manual searches of their individual e-mail archives. Such a search could be very costly. Therefore, any additional information you can provide that would help narrow the scope of your request will be helpful not only to our processing of your request but will also reduce the amount of time and effort required to search for potentially responsive records, which will in turn reduce the amount of fees that you would incur for our processing.

Another possible option would be to have our LotusNotes technicians perform a search of the main server using the terms you provided. You could then submit additional requests based on your review of the materials located in the initial search of the main Lotus Notes servers.

Additionally, while you are by no means required to do so as part of the FOIA process, it might also help to narrow the scope of our search if you could provide us with background information regarding what you need the materials for. For example, if we knew that you were looking for information related to the process for issuing permits, that would help us to narrow the scope of the search to the office that handles such matters.

Sincerely,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

October 24, 2011

Charis Wilson
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Wilson:

I submit this Freedom of Information request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

I respectfully request copies of all public records, (including, but not limited to, electronic records), for the period July 1, 2011 through the date the search is conducted, concerning the following:

1. A search of all records for "OccupyDC," "Occupy DC," "OccupyWallStreet," "Occupy Wall Street," or "McPherson."

Request for a Public Interest Fee Waiver

A fee waiver is appropriate for the requested material which will contribute significantly to public understanding of the treatment of protesters. I maintain no commercial or private interest in obtaining these records.

Request for Expedited Processing

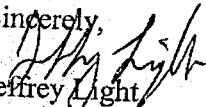
The request concerns the Occupy movement, an issue of intense media focus at the moment. Specifically, police monitoring and handling of Occupy protesters in various cities has been highlighted in numerous articles. There is a great need for the public to be informed as soon as possible about how the police have been monitoring and handling the Occupy movement in our nation's capital.

I ask to receive all documents responsive to my request in electronic format, whenever possible. If some or all of the responsive documents are available in digital form by e-mail, please send them to me at jeffrey.light@yahoo.com.

If this request is denied in whole or in part, please justify all deletions by reference to exemptions of the statute. In addition, please release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

If you have any questions in processing this request, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above e-mail address. Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Light

1712 Eye St, NW


Suite 915

Washington, DC 20006

202-277-6213

Jeffrey.Light@yahoo.com

relating to the... of a...



202-277-6213

Jeffrey.Light@yahoo.com



"Morrow Family"
[REDACTED]
10/28/2011 09:41 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient:>
cc
bcc William Line/NCR/NPS
Subject Many cities leaving Wall Street protesters alone

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/many-cities-leaving-wall-1212235.html>

Atlanta (GA) Journal-Constitution
Friday, October 28, 2011

Many cities leaving Wall Street protesters alone

By MEGHAN BARR

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — While more U.S. cities are resorting to force to break up the Wall Street protests, many others — Philadelphia, New York, Minneapolis and Portland, Ore., among them — are content to let the demonstrations go on for now.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, for example, said Friday that the several hundred protesters sleeping in Zuccotti Park, the unofficial headquarters of the movement that began in mid-September, can stay as long as they obey the law.

"I can't talk about other cities," he said. "Our responsibilities are protect your rights and your safety. And I think we're trying to do that. We're trying to act responsibly and safely."

Still, the city made life a lot harder for the demonstrators: Fire inspectors seized a dozen cans of gasoline and six generators that powered lights, cooking equipment and laptops, saying they were safety hazards.

In the span of three days this week, police broke up protest encampments in Oakland, Calif., Atlanta and, early Friday, San Diego and Nashville, Tenn.

State troopers in Nashville cracked down after authorities imposed a curfew on the protest. Twenty-nine people were arrested and later released after a judge said the demonstrators were not given enough time to comply with the brand-new rule. They received citations for trespassing instead.

Fifty-one people were arrested in San Diego, where authorities descended on a three-week-old encampment at the Civic Center Plaza and Children's Park and removed tents, canopies, tables

and other furniture.

Officials there cited numerous complaints about human and animal feces, urination, drug use and littering, as well as damage to city property — problems reported in many other cities as well. Police said the San Diego demonstrators can return without their tents and other belongings after the park is cleaned up.

Earlier this week, in the most serious clashes of the movement so far, more than 100 people were arrested and a 24-year-old Iraq War veteran suffered a skull fracture after Oakland police armed with tear gas and bean bag rounds broke up a 15-day encampment and repulsed an effort by demonstrators to retake the site.

But other cities have rejected aggressive tactics, at least so far, some of them because they want to avoid the violence seen in Oakland or, as some have speculated, because they are expecting the protests to wither anyway with the onset of cold weather.

Officials are watching the encampments for health and safety problems but say that protesters exercising their rights to free speech and assembly will be allowed to stay as long as they are peaceful and law-abiding.

"We're accommodating a free speech event as part of normal business and we're going to continue to enforce city rules," said Aaron Pickus, a spokesman for the mayor of Seattle, where about 40 protesters are camping at City Hall. "They have the right to peacefully assemble. Ultimately what the mayor is doing is strike a balance."

Authorities have similarly taken a largely hands-off approach in Portland, Ore., where about 300 demonstrators are occupying two parks downtown; Memphis, Tenn., where the number of protesters near City Hall has ranged from about a dozen to about 100; and in Salt Lake City, where activists actually held a vigil outside police headquarters this week to thank the department for not using force against them.

In the nation's capital, U.S. Park Police distributed fliers this week at an encampment of more than 100 tents near the White House. And while the fliers listed the park service regulations that protesters were violating, including a ban on camping, a park police spokesman said the notices should not be considered warnings.

In Providence, R.I., Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare said the protesters will not be forcibly removed even after the Sunday afternoon deadline he set for them. He said he intends to seek their ouster by way of court action, something that could take several weeks.

"When you see police having to quell disturbances with tear gas or other means, it's not what the police want and it's not what we want to see in our society," Pare said.

Similarly, in London, church and local government authorities are going to court to evict protesters camped outside St. Paul's Cathedral — though officials acknowledged Friday it could

take weeks or months to get an order to remove the tent city.

Several hundred protesters against economic inequality and corporate excesses have been camped outside the building since Oct. 15. On Oct. 21 cathedral officials shut the church, saying the campsite represented a health and safety hazard.

It was the first time the 300-year-old church, one of London's best-known buildings, had closed since German planes bombed the city during World War II.

In Minneapolis, where dozens have been sleeping overnight on a government plaza between a county building and City Hall, the three-week-old occupation has been far tamer than those in other cities, with only a few arrests.

Sheriff Rich Stanek has made it a practice to meet with protesters daily to talk about their issues and the day ahead, and he has refused to engage what he called "the 1 percent" who want to cause trouble.

"We decided that's not the tactic we want to take. Doing that sometimes requires biting your tongue," he said. He added: "Some people have said that's 'Minnesota nice.' It's a balance."

Niedowski reported from Providence, R.I.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Doug Glass in Minneapolis; Lucas L. Johnson II in Nashville, Tenn.; Samantha Gross in New York; Terry Collins in Oakland, Calif.; Jonathan J. Cooper in Portland, Ore.; Josh Loftin in Salt Lake City; Julie Watson in San Diego; Chris Grygiel in Seattle; Ben Nuckols in Washington; and Laura Crimaldi in Providence, R.I.

Niedowski can be reached at <http://twitter.com/eniedowski>



"Morrow Family"

10/28/2011 10:16 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Just When You Thought DC Was Fully Occupied, A New Group Has Descended on DC

<http://wmal.com/Article.asp?id=2321281>

WMAL (Washington, DC) radio
Friday, October 28, 2011

Just When You Thought DC Was Fully Occupied, A New Group Has Descended on DC

Martin Di Caro
WMAL.com

WASHINGTON -- Yet another protest group is descending on Washington, D.C. Occupy Pennsylvania Avenue has received permits to hold rallies in Lafayette Park near the White House and at West Front Lawn and Upper Senate Park near the Capitol, but the organizer said he was unsure how many protesters would appear.

The permits allow Patrick Schneider to organize rallies starting today through Nov. 20.

The number of protesters involved in Occupy Pennsylvania Avenue is not the only mystery. You also won't get Schneider, an event planner and DJ from San Diego, to disclose his political positions.

His movement is vaguely based on frustration with the federal government, but Schneider says people of all political persuasions are invited to his rallies to demand change.

"I wanted to make sure that politicians were also a target of this movement as far as being out in front of the White House and being out front of the Capitol," he said. Up to 1,000 protesters may congregate in Lafayette Park and up to 2,000 at the locations near the Capitol, according to the permits issued by the National Park Service.

The protesters, however many may show up, are not permitted to pitch tents or live there, unlike the Occupy D.C. protesters who have been inhabiting McPherson Square since early October.

Some social media sites related to Occupy Pennsylvania Avenue have libertarian-leaning posts, but Schneider insists he is non-partisan and that the protesters themselves will direct the messages at their rallies.

"If I take a position... some people may not want to come to these rallies because, he stands for this," he said. "The fact that I don't stand on anything publicly allows people to come and demonstrate their voices. I want everybody to come out because it's not just a right thing, it's not just a left thing, it's an American thing. It's an everybody thing."



David Barna
<david_barna@nps.gov>
10/29/2011 08:06 AM

To Peggy O'dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Bill Line
<William_Line@nps.gov>, Bill Reynolds
<William_F_Reynolds@nps.gov>, Sue Waldron
cc "randall_myers@ios.doi.gov" <randall_myers@ios.doi.gov>

bcc

Subject Fwd: fyi Occupy DC FOIA

Just to let you know that we have rec'd a FOIA request from an attorney for Occupy DC etc.
David

Begin forwarded message:

From: Charis Wilson@nps.gov
Date: October 28, 2011 5:04:24 PM EDT
To: David Barna@nps.gov
Cc: Maureen Foster@nps.gov
Subject: fyi Occupy DC FOIA

Hi David,

His request does not state it, but I Googled him and found that he is an attorney representing OccupyDC. I've sent a clarification request to him because as currently worded we would have to search every NPS office and park, which I know is not what he wants, but I have to get him to clarify that. I've also requested that he clarify his fee category, because I'm not sure if as their attorney he would need to be classified as commercial...e.g. are they paying him or is he donating time? I'm thinking we will likely need to classify him as OTHER as it is my understanding that the Occupy movement per se does not exist as a formal organization such that we could declare his work for it to be commercial. However, I'm waiting to get additional information from him first.

In the meantime since I know this is likely a hot issue in your office I'm forwarding you a copy of this request so you are aware of it.

(See attached file: light occupy dc foia.PDF)

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA



light occupy dc foia.PDF

October 24, 2011

Charis Wilson
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Wilson:

I submit this Freedom of Information request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

I respectfully request copies of all public records, (including, but not limited to, electronic records), for the period July 1, 2011 through the date the search is conducted, concerning the following:

1. A search of all records for "OccupyDC," "Occupy DC," "OccupyWallStreet," "Occupy Wall Street," or "McPherson."

Request for a Public Interest Fee Waiver

A fee waiver is appropriate for the requested material which will contribute significantly to public understanding of the treatment of protesters. I maintain no commercial or private interest in obtaining these records.

Request for Expedited Processing

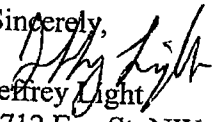
The request concerns the Occupy movement, an issue of intense media focus at the moment. Specifically, police monitoring and handling of Occupy protesters in various cities has been highlighted in numerous articles. There is a great need for the public to be informed as soon as possible about how the police have been monitoring and handling the Occupy movement in our nation's capital.

I ask to receive all documents responsive to my request in electronic format, whenever possible. If some or all of the responsive documents are available in digital form by e-mail, please send them to me at jeffrey.light@yahoo.com.

If this request is denied in whole or in part, please justify all deletions by reference to exemptions of the statute. In addition, please release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

If you have any questions in processing this request, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above e-mail address. Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Light

1712 Eye St, NW

Suite 915

Washington, DC 20006

202-277-6213

Jeffrey.Light@yahoo.com



Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>

10/28/2011 11:56 PM

Please respond to
Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>

To "Charis_Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
cc "William_Line@nps.gov" <William_Line@nps.gov>,
"Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov" <Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov>,
"Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov" <Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov>
bcc
Subject Re: OccupyDC FOIA request clarification questions

Ms. Wilson,

My request is intended to be limited to the National Capital Region and the US Park Police.

I also agree to limit my search for emails to the previous 30 days in order that manual searches need not be performed. Please have the Lotus Notes technician perform a search of the main server using the search terms I submitted.

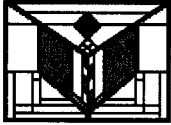
I do not object to being characterized as OTHER for fee purposes. I am not a member of the news media or a scientific or educational organization and the information is not requested for commercial purposes. However, I would request that a waiver of fees be considered because the information sought is likely to contribute to public understanding of the operation of the National Park Service as it relates to First Amendment activity. I intend to disseminate the information I receive to the public via websites in order to increase awareness of how the federal government monitors political protesters exercising their rights on Park property.

Thank you,
Jeffrey Light

From: "Charis_Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
To: jeffrey.light@yahoo.com
Cc: William_Line@nps.gov; Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov; Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 4:45 PM
Subject: OccupyDC FOIA request clarification questions

Mr. Light,

I received your October 24, 2011 FOIA request in today's mail. (See attached file: light occupy dc foia.PDF)



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS
10/31/2011 11:33 AM

To Rhoda Upshur/WASO/NPS@NPS
cc William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS, Margie
Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS, Janeen Tyson/USPP/NPS@NPS
bcc
Subject 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA

Hi Rhoda,

I'm attaching a copy of a FOIA request I received last week from an attorney with Occupy DC. He initial request was so broad that it would have meant searching everyone's e-mails going back to July, so I contacted him and he has clarified that he is only looking for information from USPP and NCR staff.

I also explained to him that the LotusNotes servers only have 30 days worth of records and that if we needed to search e-mails back to July it would involve a great deal of manual searching, including possibly having individual employees search their e-mail archives. He has agreed, therefore, to having us search only the active 30 days worth of e-mail that is on the Lotus Notes server for any messages using the phrases listed in his original request.

He is also now asking for a fee waiver, but did not provide enough justification to grant it so I'll be getting back to him with a request that he provide more justification. In the meantime, I'm hoping you could let me know how much time it would take to perform the search he is requesting for any e-mails to or from the USPP or NCR staff using the terms "Occupy DC", "Occupy DC", "Occupy Wallstreet", "Occupy Wall Street" or "McPherson".



light occupy dc foia.PDF

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie



"Fetcher, Adam K"
 <Adam_Fetcher@ios.doi.gov
 >
 11/01/2011 11:21 AM

To "Line, William" <William_Line@nps.gov>
 cc "Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Schlosser, David"
 <David_Schlosser@nps.gov>, "Kelly, Kate P"
 <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>

bcc

Subject RE: Need info. Occupy arrests?

Thanks Bill. Turns out it was FPS in Portland. Much appreciated, sorry for the slight fire drill.

-----Original Message-----

From: William_Line@nps.gov [mailto:William_Line@nps.gov]
 Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 10:21 AM
 To: Fetcher, Adam K
 Cc: Barna, David; Schlosser, David; Kelly, Kate P
 Subject: Re: Need info. Occupy arrests?

Adam:

Yes, I heard media reports of arrests in Portland, Oregon yesterday (NPR, CBS Radio). I'm not aware of any here in Washington, D.C. at all. I hope this helps.

Bill Line
 Communications, FOIA & Tourism Officer
 National Park Service
 National Capital Region
 1100 Ohio Drive, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20242
 Main office: (202) 619-7222; direct dial: (202) 619-7177; cell: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Fax: (202) 619-7302

Visit us at:

www.facebook.com/gwnppublicaffairs
<http://www.youtube.com/gwnppublicaffairs1>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gwnppublicaffairs>

"Fetcher, Adam K"
 <Adam_Fetcher@ios
 .doi.gov>

11/01/2011 09:39
 AM

To
 "Schlosser, David"
 <David_Schlosser@nps.gov>, "Barna,
 David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>,
 "Line, William"
 <William_Line@nps.gov>

cc

"Kelly, Kate P"
 <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Subject

Need info. Occupy arrests?

Were any arrests made yesterday in conjunction with the Occupy protests?
That's all I've heard, not sure even where (maybe Portland). Do you have a
statement or any details for internal awareness?

Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS
11/01/2011 01:04 PM

To Carol B Johnson/NACC/NPS@NPS, Tonya
Thomas/NACC/NPS@NPS
cc William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS
bcc
Subject Fw: 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA

For now, there may be little we have to do with the Light FOIA, except review documents for potential redactions. MO

Margie Ortiz
National Capital Region
Public Affairs and FOIA Specialist
Office of Communications
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20242
202-619-7359 (office)

Visit us at:
www.facebook.com/gwnppublicaffairs
<http://www.youtube.com/gwnppublicaffairs1>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gwnppublicaffairs>

----- Forwarded by Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS on 11/01/2011 01:03 PM -----



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS
11/01/2011 12:49 PM

To Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc
Subject Re: 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA

Hi Margie,

Right now my plan is to have the C3 Lotus Notes support folks do the heavy lifting on the main servers. Once they get that completed, they should be able to give me a database with all the potentially responsive messages in it. I'll then have NCR and USPP review the messages to determine what, if anything, needs to be redacted. Once that is done I'll work with the Solicitor's office to draft a response.

So for now all NCR has to do is stand by and be ready to review potentially responsive records.

Thanks,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS

Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS

11/01/2011 07:40 AM

To Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS@NPS

cc

Subject Re: 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA 

Charis -- Are you handling this FOIA and we are simply providing you with the documents, or do we have the lead? Margie

Margie Ortiz
National Capital Region
Public Affairs and FOIA Specialist
Office of Communications
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20242
202-619-7359 (office)

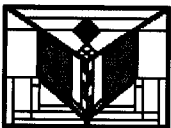

Visit us at:

www.facebook.com/gwnppublicaffairs

<http://www.youtube.com/gwnppublicaffairs1>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gwnppublicaffairs>

Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS

10/31/2011 11:33 AM

To Rhoda Upshur/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS, Margie

Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS, Janeen Tyson/USPP/NPS@NPS

Subject 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA

Hi Rhoda,

I'm attaching a copy of a FOIA request I received last week from an attorney with Occupy DC. He initial request was so broad that it would have meant searching everyone's e-mails going back to July, so I contacted him and he has clarified that he is only looking for information from USPP and NCR staff.

I also explained to him that the LotusNotes servers only have 30 days worth of records and that if we needed to search e-mails back to July it would involve a great deal of manual searching, including possibly having individual employees search their e-mail archives. He has agreed, therefore, to having us search only the active 30 days worth of e-mail that is on the Lotus Notes server for any messages using the phrases listed in his original request.

He is also now asking for a fee waiver, but did not provide enough justification to grant it so I'll be getting back to him with a request that he provide more justification. In the meantime, I'm hoping you could let me know how much time it would take to perform the search he is requesting for any e-mails to or from the USPP or NCR staff using the terms "Occupy DC", "Occupy DC", "Occupy Wallstreet", "Occupy Wall Street" or "McPherson".

[attachment "light occupy dc foia.PDF" deleted by Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS]

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

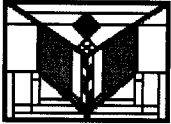
C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS

11/04/2011 02:39 PM

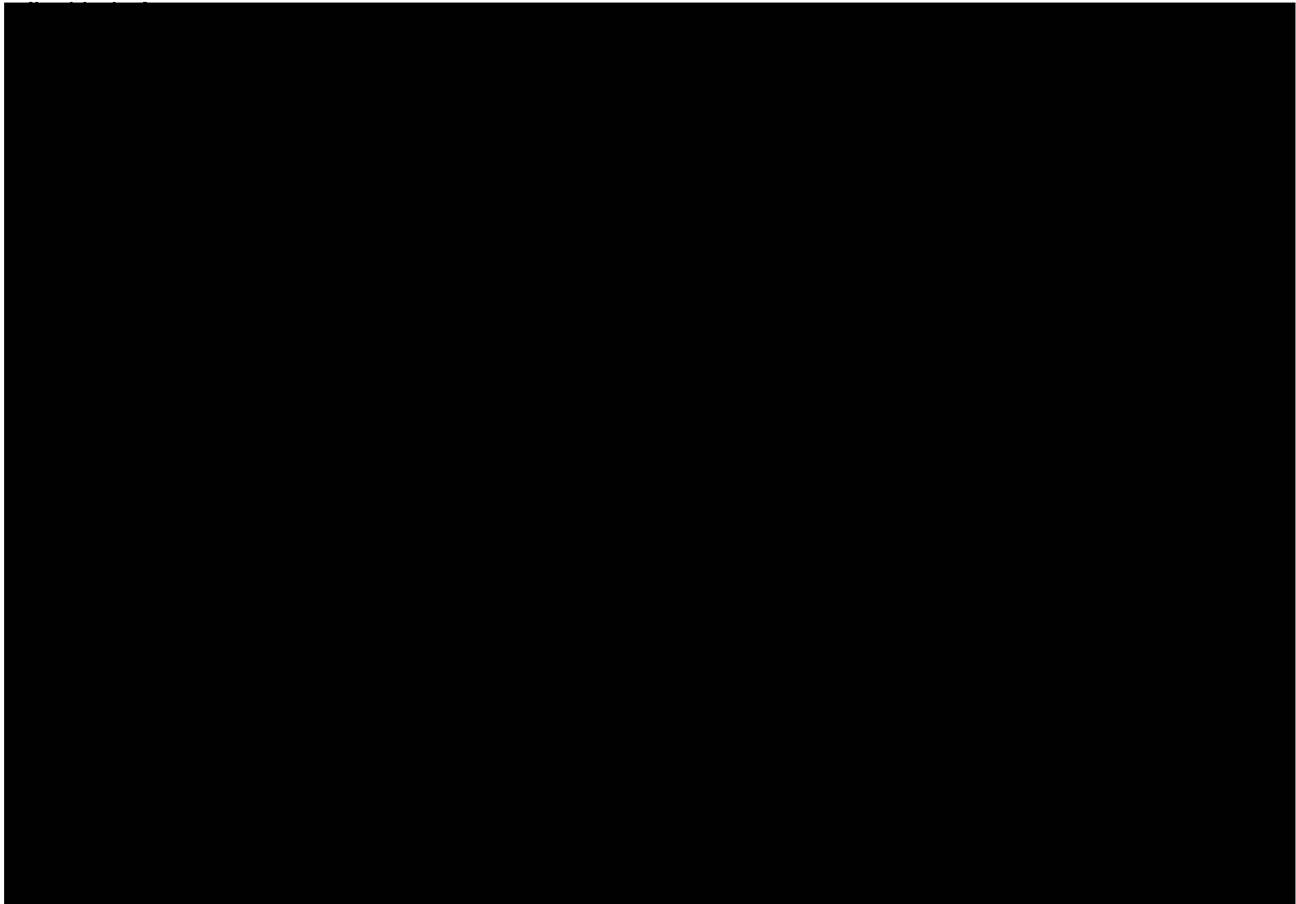
To JASON_WAANDERS@sol.doi.gov, DStrayhorn@sol.doi.gov

cc Maureen Foster/WASO/NPS@NPS, Janeen Tyson/USPP/NPS@NPS, William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS, Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS, John R

bcc

Subject Consultation on 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee Waiver Request

Hi All,



C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -

Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

----- Forwarded by Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS on 11/04/2011 12:06 PM -----



Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>

11/04/2011 11:50 AM

Please respond to
Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>

To "Charis_Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
cc

Subject Re: 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee Waiver Clarification Request

Ms. Wilson,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to clarify my fee waiver request. I hope the following information will enable you to grant a fee waiver.

1. The records requested will be meaningfully informative of the Bureau's operation and activities as it relates to the exercise of First Amendment activities on federal park land. The records requested pertain to OccupyDC, a group of individuals inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement. Members of OccupyDC have been present in McPherson Square around-the-clock for approximately one month to protest against what they believe to be unfair government policies. While some of the Park Service's regulations regarding First Amendment activity, as embodied in the CFR and Compendium, are clear, it is unclear how other provisions are to be interpreted and enforced. The requested records will provide the public with an opportunity to understand what the Bureau's policies are and how they are applied and enforced in practice. For example, there has been some confusion in the media relating to whether certain activities conducted by OccupyDC constitute camping in violation of the law. See "Occupy DC: McPherson Square Protesters Can't Camp. Or Can They?" available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/01/occupy-dc-camping_n_1068027.html?ref=dc This article cites Carol Johnson, a spokeswoman for NPS, explaining that it can be difficult to tell the difference between a vigil, which is allowed, and camping, which is not allowed. The requested records will help shed light on how the Bureau determines on which side of the law certain activities fall.

I am a lawyer specializing in First Amendment issues and have been advising

the OccupyDC group as well as speaking to other lawyers working with other Occupy groups around the country. I have also been speaking with the media, specifically the Huffington Post, in order to educate the public about First Amendment rights on federal park land. As such, I will be able to use the requested information to help advise OccupyDC and the public generally about the Bureau's operations and activities.

2. The records requested are not for my personal knowledge, but for the benefit of the public. There has been intense media interest in the Occupy movement worldwide and numerous articles have been written specifically about OccupyDC. The public has an interest in knowing how the OccupyDC protesters are being treated by the Bureau and how the Bureau views OccupyDC's activities. Additionally, potential protesters and lawyers advising them around the country are interested in learning how the Bureau perceives and acts in response to the Occupy movement and to protesters generally. For example, I have been contacted by a lawyer advising Occupy protesters in another city who was trying to determine whether to advise a group to conduct their protest on federal park property or city property and wanted to know how the Bureau has been treating protesters in OccupyDC.

3. I intend to disseminate the information through the website OccupyDC.org, to email lists of lawyers advising Occupy protesters around the country, and to local and national media. Specifically, I have been in contact with reporters for the Huffington Post, Salon, and other media entities who have expressed an interest in publishing information which relates to the operations and activities of the Bureau as it relates to OccupyDC.

4. The records sought likely contain new information that is not currently publicly available. Although the CFR and Compendium are publicly available, records which reveal how the Bureau interprets and enforces these regulations is not currently available. A Washington Post article quotes Bob Vogel, superintendent of the Park Service's National Mall and Memorial Parks as stating that there is a "fine line" between respecting freedom of speech on the one hand and protecting park facilities and ensuring public safety on the other.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dc-wire/post/occupy-dc-focus-of--sensitive-discussions/2011/10/22/gIQABUgX7L_blog.html The public has an interest in knowing where the Bureau is drawing the line and how it decided

where that line should be, and such information is not currently publicly available.

5. I have no commercial interest in the requested records. The purpose of the request is solely to inform the public about Bureau activities.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Light

From: "Charis_Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
To: Jeff Light <jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 11:09 AM
Subject: 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee Waiver Clarification Request

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

November 2, 2011

A7221 (NPS-2012-00032)

Mr. Jeffrey Light
1712 Eye Street, NW
Suite 915
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Light:

Reference: Records Relating to Occupy DC

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request Dated October 24, 2011

In your e-mail of October 28, 2011, you indicated that you were limiting the scope of your request to records in the National Capital Region and US Park Police e-mail records for the past thirty days and also requested a fee waiver. The FOIA permits documents to be furnished without charge or at

a reduced charge if disclosure of the information.

Is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the Government, and

Is not primarily in your commercial interest.

However, due to the limited amount of information you have provided we are currently unable to make a determination on your fee waiver request. To assist us in making a decision on your request for a fee waiver, we ask that you address the following as applicable. You must be specific in addressing the Department's fee waiver criteria for each request you submit, regardless of whether you may have been granted a fee waiver previously.

Explain how the records you are seeking will be meaningfully informative with respect to the bureau's operations and activities. Your identity, vocation, qualifications, and expertise regarding the requested information may be relevant factors.

Explain how disclosure of the records will contribute to the understanding of the public at large or a reasonably broad audience as opposed to only enhancing your knowledge.

Explain how and to whom you intend to disseminate the information and how you intend to use the information to contribute to public understanding.

Explain how release of the requested records will contribute significantly to public understanding. For example, is the information being disclosed new, does the information confirm or clarify data released previously, and is the information publicly available? Explain how disclosure will increase the level of public understanding that existed prior to disclosure.

Explain whether you have a commercial interest that would be furthered by disclosure and if so, whether the public interest in disclosure would be greater than any commercial interest you or your organization would have in the documents.

If you are still interested in obtaining these documents, please provide additional information to support your fee waiver request or written assurance of your willingness to pay all fees or specify the maximum amount

that you are willing to pay for the bureau to process your request. This will allow us to begin processing your request for records while considering your fee waiver request. If the bureau grants your fee waiver request, we will not charge fees to the extent that it grants the waiver. If you have agreed to pay fees up to a particular amount, we will contact you when we have processed your request up to that amount before proceeding further.

If we do not hear from you by November 14, 2011, we will have no choice but to make our determination on your fee waiver request based on the limited information you have provided, which may result in a denial of your fee waiver request. If we deny your fee waiver request and you have not already agreed to pay fees, we will provide you with an estimate for the costs to process your request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." – Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." – Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" – Adolph Murie

Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>

To

10/28/2011 09:56
PM

"Charis_Wilson@nps.gov"
<Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>

cc

Please respond to
Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@ya
hoo.com>

"William_Line@nps.gov"
<William_Line@nps.gov>,
"Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov"
<Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov>,
"Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov"
<Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov>

Subject

Re: OccupyDC FOIA request
clarification questions

Ms. Wilson,

My request is intended to be limited to the National Capital Region and the US Park Police.

I also agree to limit my search for emails to the previous 30 days in order that manual searches need not be performed. Please have the Lotus Notes technician perform a search of the main server using the search terms I submitted.

I do not object to being characterized as OTHER for fee purposes. I am not a member of the news media or a scientific or educational organization and the information is not requested for commercial purposes. However, I would request that a waiver of fees be considered because the information sought is likely to contribute to public understanding of the operation of the National Park Service as it relates to First Amendment activity. I intend to disseminate the information I receive to the public via websites in order to increase awareness of how the federal government monitors political protesters exercising their rights on Park property.

Thank you,
Jeffrey Light

Reference: Records Relating to Occupy DC

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request Dated October 24, 2011

In your e-mail of October 28, 2011, you indicated that you were limiting the scope of your request to records in the National Capital Region and US Park Police e-mail records for the past thirty days and also requested a fee waiver. The FOIA permits documents to be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge if disclosure of the information—

Is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the Government, and
Is not primarily in your commercial interest.

However, due to the limited amount of information you have provided we are currently unable to make a determination on your fee waiver request. To assist us in making a decision on your request for a fee waiver, we ask that you address the following as applicable. You must be specific in addressing the Department's fee waiver criteria for each request you submit, regardless of whether you may have been granted a fee waiver previously.

Explain how the records you are seeking will be meaningfully informative with respect to the bureau's operations and activities. Your identity, vocation, qualifications, and expertise regarding the requested information may be relevant factors.

Explain how disclosure of the records will contribute to the understanding of the public at large or a reasonably broad audience as opposed to only enhancing your knowledge.

Explain how and to whom you intend to disseminate the information and how you intend to use the information to contribute to public understanding.

Explain how release of the requested records will contribute significantly to public understanding. For example, is the information being disclosed new, does the information confirm or clarify data released previously, and is the information publicly available? Explain how disclosure will increase the level of public understanding that existed prior to disclosure.

Explain whether you have a commercial interest that would be

furthered by disclosure and if so, whether the public interest in disclosure would be greater than any commercial interest you or your organization would have in the documents.

If you are still interested in obtaining these documents, please provide additional information to support your fee waiver request or written assurance of your willingness to pay all fees or specify the maximum amount that you are willing to pay for the bureau to process your request. This will allow us to begin processing your request for records while considering your fee waiver request. If the bureau grants your fee waiver request, we will not charge fees to the extent that it grants the waiver. If you have agreed to pay fees up to a particular amount, we will contact you when we have processed your request up to that amount before proceeding further.

If we do not hear from you by November 14, 2011, we will have no choice but to make our determination on your fee waiver request based on the limited information you have provided, which may result in a denial of your fee waiver request. If we deny your fee waiver request and you have not already agreed to pay fees, we will provide you with an estimate for the costs to process your request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." - Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

Jeff Light
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>
10/28/2011 09:56 PM
To
"Charis_Wilson@nps.gov"
<Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
cc
"William_Line@nps.gov"
<William_Line@nps.gov>,
Please respond to "Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov"
Jeff Light <Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov>,
<jeffrey.light@yahoo.com> "Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov"
<Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov>
Subject
Re: OccupyDC FOIA request
clarification questions

Ms. Wilson,
My request is intended to be limited to the National Capital Region and the US Park Police.

I also agree to limit my search for emails to the previous 30 days in order that manual searches need not be performed. Please have the Lotus Notes technician perform a search of the main server using the search terms I submitted.

I do not object to being characterized as OTHER for fee purposes. I am not a member of the news media or a scientific or educational organization and the information is not requested for commercial purposes. However, I would request that a waiver of fees be considered because the information sought is likely to contribute to public understanding of the operation of the National Park Service as it relates to First Amendment activity. I intend to disseminate the information I receive to the public via websites in

From: "Charis_Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
To: jeffrey.light@yahoo.com
Cc: William_Line@nps.gov; Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov; Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 4:45 PM
Subject: OccupyDC FOIA request clarification questions

Mr. Light,

I received your October 24, 2011 FOIA request in today's mail. (See attached file: light occupy dc foia.PDF)

However, we cannot begin processing it because it is not currently clear which of the 395+ NPS park, regional and field offices you are seeking records from. While I am assuming that you are only looking for records from NPS sites and offices located in Washington, D.C., e.g. the National Capital Region, the National Mall or the US Park Police, we cannot base our processing of your request on such assumptions. We must instead clarify the scope of your request.

Your request also did not provide us with enough information to determine which fee category you belong too. Again, we could assume that you are OTHER and thus would be entitled to 2 free hours of search time and 100 free pages, but simply indicating that you have no commercial or personal interest in the information does not provide us with enough information. So again, since we are not supposed to base our FOIA responses on assumptions, I am contacting you for clarification.

Please be aware that since you have specifically requested e-mail documents and our central e-mail server only retains 30 days worth of e-mail messages, as currently worded your request will require that employees, within the locations you are asking for records from, perform manual searches of their individual e-mail archives. Such a search could be very costly. Therefore, any additional information you can provide that would help narrow the scope of your request will be helpful not only to our processing of your request but will also reduce the amount of time and effort required to search for potentially responsive records, which will in turn reduce the amount of fees that you would incur for our processing.

Another possible option would be to have our LotusNotes technicians perform a search of the main server using the terms you provided. You could then submit additional requests based on your review of the materials located in the initial search of the main Lotus Notes servers.

Additionally, while you are by no means required to do so as part of the FOIA process, it might also help to narrow the scope of our search if you could provide us with background information regarding what you need the materials for. For example, if we knew that you were looking for information related to the process for issuing permits, that would help us to narrow the scope of the search to the office that handles such matters.

Sincerely,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." – Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." – Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" – Adolph Murie



"Waanders, Jason"
<JASON.WAANDERS@sol.doi.gov>

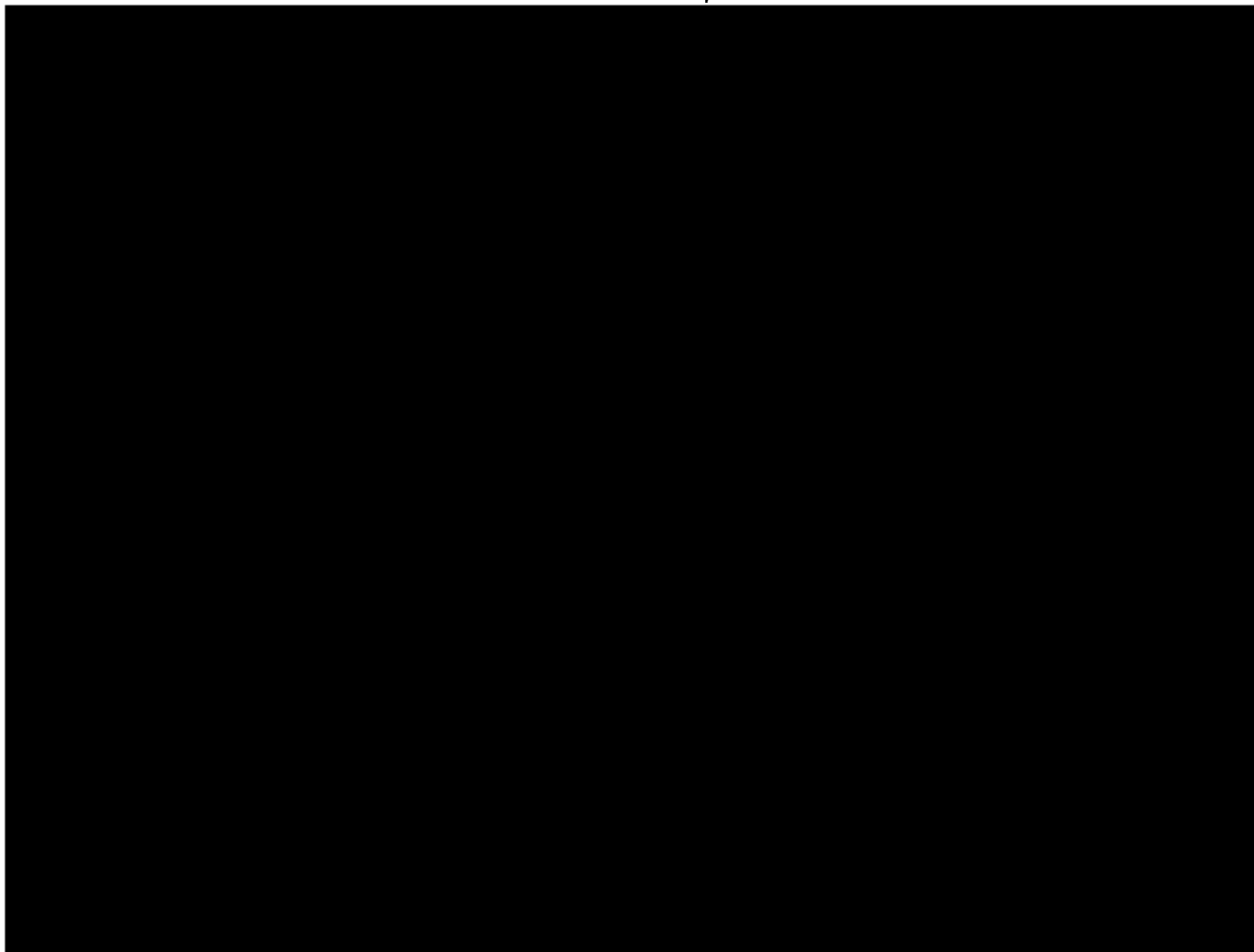
11/04/2011 03:29 PM

To "Wilson, Charis" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>, "Strayhorn, Darrell" <Darrell.Strayhorn@sol.doi.gov>

cc "Foster, Maureen" <Maureen_Foster@nps.gov>, "Tyson, Janeen C." <Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov>, "Line, William" <William_Line@nps.gov>, "Ortiz, Margie L."

bcc

Subject RE: Consultation on 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee Waiver Request



Jason Waanders

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor

1849 C Street, NW, Room 5319

Washington, DC 20240

(202) 208-7957

Thank you, in advance, for your time and input on this potentially controversial issue.

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

----- Forwarded by Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS on 11/04/2011 12:06 PM -----

Jeff Light <jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>

To: "Charis Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>

cc

11/04/2011 11:50 AM

SubjectRe: 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee Waiver Clarification Request

Please respond to Jeff Light < jeffrey.light@yahoo.com >
--

Ms. Wilson,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to clarify my fee waiver request. I hope the following information will enable you to grant a fee waiver.

1. The records requested will be meaningfully informative of the Bureau's operation and activities as it relates to the exercise of First Amendment activities on federal park land. The records requested pertain to OccupyDC, a group of individuals inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement. Members of OccupyDC have been present in McPherson Square around-the-clock for approximately one month to protest against what they believe to be unfair government policies. While some of the Park Service's regulations regarding First Amendment activity, as embodied in the CFR and Compendium, are clear, it is unclear how other provisions are to be interpreted and enforced. The requested records will provide the public with an opportunity to understand what the

Bureau's policies are and how they are applied and enforced in practice. For example, there has been some confusion in the media relating to whether certain activities conducted by OccupyDC constitute camping in violation of the law. See "Occupy DC: McPherson Square Protesters Can't Camp. Or Can They?" available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/01/occupy-dc-camping_n_1068027.html?ref=dc This article cites Carol Johnson, a spokeswoman for NPS, explaining that it can be difficult to tell the difference between a vigil, which is allowed, and camping, which is not allowed. The requested records will help shed light on how the Bureau determines on which side of the law certain activities fall.

I am a lawyer specializing in First Amendment issues and have been advising the OccupyDC group as well as speaking to other lawyers working with other Occupy groups around the country. I have also been speaking with the media, specifically the Huffington Post, in order to educate the public about First Amendment rights on federal park land. As such, I will be able to use the requested information to help advise OccupyDC and the public generally about the Bureau's operations and activities.

2. The records requested are not for my personal knowledge, but for the benefit of the public. There has been intense media interest in the Occupy movement worldwide and numerous articles have been written specifically about OccupyDC. The public has an interest in knowing how the OccupyDC protesters are being treated by the Bureau and how the Bureau views OccupyDC's activities. Additionally, potential protesters and lawyers advising them around the country are interested in learning how the Bureau perceives and acts in response to the Occupy movement and to protesters generally. For example, I have been contacted by a lawyer advising Occupy protesters in another city who was trying to determine whether to advise a group to conduct their protest on federal park property or city property and wanted to know how the Bureau has been treating protesters in OccupyDC.

3. I intend to disseminate the information through the website OccupyDC.org, to email lists of lawyers advising Occupy protesters around the country, and to local and national media. Specifically, I have been in contact with reporters for the Huffington Post, Salon, and other media entities who have expressed an interest in publishing information which relates to the operations and activities of the Bureau as it relates to OccupyDC.

4. The records sought likely contain new information that is not currently publicly

available. Although the CFR and Compendium are publicly available, records which reveal how the Bureau interprets and enforces these regulations is not currently available. A Washington Post article quotes Bob Vogel, superintendent of the Park Service's National Mall and Memorial Parks as stating that there is a "fine line" between respecting freedom of speech on the one hand and protecting park facilities and ensuring public safety on the other.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dc-wire/post/occupy-dc-focus-of--sensitive-discussions/2011/10/22/gIQABUgX7L_blog.html The public has an interest in knowing where the Bureau is drawing the line and how it decided where that line should be, and such information is not currently publicly available.

5. I have no commercial interest in the requested records. The purpose of the request is solely to inform the public about Bureau activities.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Light

From: "Charis_Wilson@nps.gov" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>
To: Jeff Light <jeffrey.light@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 11:09 AM
Subject: 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee Waiver Clarification Request

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

November 2, 2011

A7221 (NPS-2012-00032)

Mr. Jeffrey Light
1712 Eye Street, NW
Suite 915
Washington, DC 20006


Dear Mr. Light:

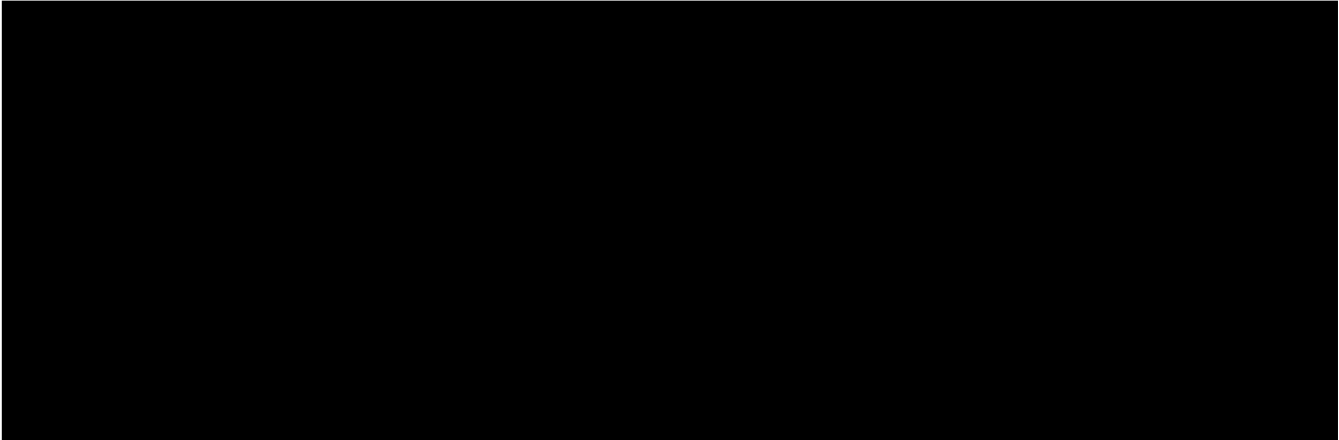


Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS
11/04/2011 03:44 PM

To "Waanders, Jason" <JASON.WAANDERS@sol.doi.gov>
cc "Roth, Barry" <BARRY.ROTH@sol.doi.gov>, "Strayhorn,
Darrell" <Darrell.Strayhorn@sol.doi.gov>, "Barna, David"
<David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Tyson, Janeen C."

bcc

Subject RE: Consultation on 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee
Waiver Request 



c.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

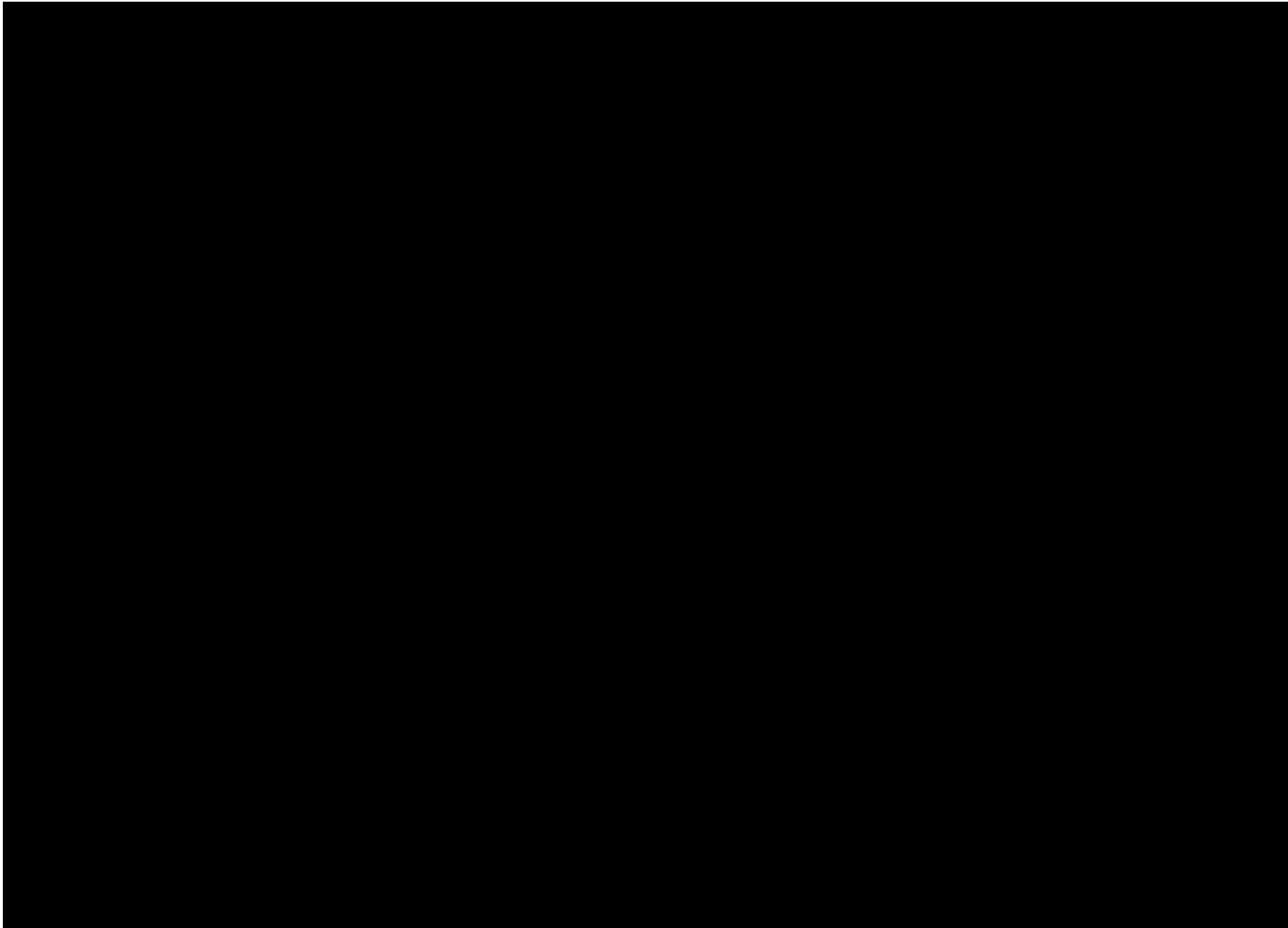
"Waanders, Jason" <JASON.WAANDERS@sol.doi.gov>



"Waanders, Jason"
<JASON.WAANDERS@sol.doi.gov>
11/04/2011 01:29 PM

To "Wilson, Charis" <Charis_Wilson@nps.gov>, "Strayhorn,
Darrell" <Darrell.Strayhorn@sol.doi.gov>
cc "Foster, Maureen" <Maureen_Foster@nps.gov>, "Tyson,
Janeen C." <Janeen_Tyson@nps.gov>, "Line, William"
<William_Line@nps.gov>, "Ortiz, Margie L."
<Margie_Ortiz@nps.gov>, "Snyder, John R."
<John_R_Snyder@nps.gov>, "Barna, David"
<David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Eaton, Robert"
<Robert.Eaton@sol.doi.gov>, "Roth, Barry"
<BARRY.ROTH@sol.doi.gov>

Subject RE: Consultation on 12-32 Light Occupy DC FOIA Fee
Waiver Request



Jason Waanders

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor

1849 C Street, NW, Room 5319

Washington, DC 20240

(202) 208-7957

(202) 208-3877 (fax)

jason.waanders@sol.doi.gov



David Barna/WASO/NPS
11/07/2011 12:46 PM

To Barbara Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Celinda
Pena/WASO/NPS@NPS, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Frances Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Geoffrey Suiter, Jeffrey
cc
bcc
Subject McPherson Square Protesters

----- Forwarded by David Barna/WASO/NPS on 11/07/2011 12:45 PM -----



"AlertDC"
<alert25806@alert.ema.dc.gov>
v>
11/07/2011 12:37 PM EST

To "Transportation Alert Recipients" <rsan@alert.ema.dc.gov>
cc
Subject Protesters

MPD reports approximately 75 protesters in the area of McPherson Square. They are reported to be in the 800 block of L Street NW blocking traffic in both directions. Please avoid the area.



"Morrow Family"

11/08/2011 10:55 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient:>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Rochester (NY) City Paper EDITORIAL: Why Occupy must succeed

<http://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/news/opinion/2011/11/EDITORIAL-Why-Occupy-must-succeed/>

Rochester (NY) City Paper
Tuesday, November 8, 2011

EDITORIAL: Why Occupy must succeed

Rochester is a city with a proud history of protests. Women's suffrage, abolition, anti-war, civil rights, labor rights, education: generation after generation, Rochesterians have mounted large, often effective protests on the major issues of the day. And right now a particularly significant protest, Occupy Rochester, is taking place in Washington Square Park, under the gaze of the statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Also significant is an outgrowth of that protest: the dispute between City Hall and the Occupiers over First Amendment rights.

Occupy Rochester is part of the national Occupy Wall Street movement protesting assaults on democracy and justice - assaults that, to me, are among the most serious in this nation's history. Growing wealth disparity, corporate power, and, yes, blatant corporate greed threaten to erode basic social safety-net protections, wipe out job and educational opportunities for many Americans, and put government in the hands of a few. If we go much farther down this road, the United States will be a democracy in name only.

The Rochester protest began at the Liberty Pole downtown and in front of Bank of America. It has since moved to Washington Square Park, a beautiful little public square of grass and trees surrounded by Geva, St. Mary's and First Universalist Churches, and the Bausch & Lomb headquarters. The park's history makes it an appropriate place for this demonstration: it was Rochester's first public park, and it has been the site of numerous protests and public gatherings around important civic issues. One of the city's most revered protesters, Frederick Douglass, gave speeches there.

Under city regulations, the park is closed between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Rochester Occupiers want their protest to be like many of the others around the country: an encampment, an ongoing, 24-hour event consisting of public addresses, community meetings, news sharing, eating, and sleeping.

City Hall has decided to enforce its park closing rules, however, and on October 28, police arrested 32 people who refused to leave the park at 11 p.m. Since then, there have been more

arrests. Occupy members have asked that the charges be dropped - and that protesters be permitted to stay in the park overnight.

Mayor Tom Richards is adamant. He doesn't have the power to drop the charges, he says. "I don't arrest," he said in a City interview last week, "and I don't un-arrest." And he won't permit a 24-hour Occupation. "The law that is in place now does not allow for camping there," he said.

Richards also insists that staying beyond the park's closing hours, camping overnight in the park, isn't protected by the First Amendment. "It's not a form of speech," he said. The Supreme Court has ruled on that issue, he says.

And yes, it has. In a 7-2 decision in 1984 - Thurgood Marshall being one of the dissenters, by the way - the Court said that government has a right to forbid camping in a public park, even when that camping is done as part of a protest.

In the 1984 case, a group called Community for Creative Non-Violence wanted to create encampments in Lafayette Park and on the Mall in Washington, DC, to call attention to homelessness. The National Park Service issued permits for the encampments and said protesters could erect tent cities in the parks. But, the Park Service said, protesters could not sleep in the tents because camping - "defined as including sleeping activities," in the Court's words - was not permitted in either of the two parks.

Courts have also said that free speech is not an unlimited right, that, for instance, "government can make reasonable stipulations about the time, place, and manner a peaceable protest can take place," notes a recent ProPublica post on syracuse.com, "as long as those restrictions are applied in a content-neutral way."

And so the Supreme Court has sided with Richards. He has the authority to deny the protesters' request. But he is not required to. He could grant the request, if he chose to do so, as government officials in other cities have. The New York Civil Liberties Union and its local branch, the Genesee Chapter, want him to do just that. An Occupy Rochester 24-hour stay-in is a form of speech, they say.

There are many ways to protest, and Americans have used them since the beginning of the country's history: marches, picket lines, sit-ins. And encampments: peaceful occupations of public space to call attention to injustice.

This form of protest is not new. Similar actions have ranged from encampments on university campuses focusing on the needs of the homeless to the 1968 Poor People's Campaign encampment on the Mall in Washington. The point is occupation. Staying put.

"Occupying," wrote protester Dana Spiotta on occupysyracuse.org recently, "means refusing to go away."

"The duration is a crucial component," Spiotta wrote. "The press and the attention of the whole

world have come because of the relentless sleeping and living in Zuccotti Park. The protest isn't over when the rally is over. It isn't over when the IMF or the WTO meeting is over. In that way it is more like a sit-in or a strike - all historically very powerful tactics."

"Our economic injustices are chronic," Spiotta said, "and so then must be the protest."

And note what a mild form of occupation this is. The protesters are not trying to occupy the major banks and investment firms, the root of much of the Occupy movement's criticism. They are not trying to occupy the offices of the federal government, although it is the federal government that permitted the creation of the financial crisis. In cities throughout the country, they are occupying public parks, of which they are part owners.

Reading the statements coming out of City Hall, and hearing the silence coming from City Council, I wonder if the Democrats who run the place understand the image they're fashioning. They look like the Establishment so many of us rebelled against in the 1960's. Richards is particularly vulnerable on this point, since in his previous life he was a corporate executive, got a substantial payment when he left, and has brought other corporate executives into his administration.

The folks at City Hall aren't the only ones with an Establishment viewpoint, of course. You hear the language everywhere you turn, in Rochester and elsewhere: "The protesters are a fringe group." "They can't tell anybody what they want, what their point is." "They're disorganized." (It's no small matter, of course, that "properly organized" Establishment institutions have gotten this country into the mess it's in.)

"What if they turn violent?" Violent acts by Occupy participants have been rare, but as usual, they've made the headlines. And as usual in anti-Establishment movements, Establishment interests seize on those isolated incidents to shape the story of the Occupation and try to turn public sentiment against it.

The Establishment reaction to the Occupy movement reminds me of the reaction to civil rights, Black Power efforts in Rochester in the 1960's. As activists brought in Saul Alinsky to help organize the FIGHT organization, and FIGHT pushed for a job training program at Kodak, the Rochester Establishment was appalled - and obviously perplexed. Protesters weren't pressing their concerns in the proper way: the way disagreements were discussed in Rochester's corporate board rooms and country clubs.

Rochester's mayor doesn't express his denial of a full Occupation in those terms. He is, he says, simply enforcing city law and doing his duty to protect public safety. He isn't preventing the protest. He's simply insisting that it conform to park rules.

But Richards himself voiced an interesting objection in City's interview with him last week. Occupy Rochester, he said, "is not connected, as far as I can figure out, with anything they're protesting about."

"In the civil rights protest," Richards said, "if you went and sat in the front of the bus and got arrested, the two were connected. But the idea of not camping in the park is not related to stopping the war in Afghanistan. And so we've got a fundamental disconnect here."

So does this mean that all of us who took part in anti-war protests during the Vietnam War weren't really protesting because our candlelight marches down Broad Street weren't directly related to the napalming of children in Vietnam and the bombing of Cambodian villages? (In fact, at that time several Rochester protesters did do something more starkly connected to the war: they marched into some of Rochester's mainline churches and carried caskets down the aisles, disrupting the worship services. And hoo boy, did that cause a stir.)

In a November 3 [blog](#), the New Yorker's Hendrik Hertzberg quoted Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, who first supported Occupy Atlanta but has since done an about face, having 50 protesters arrested and clearing out the park they were occupying. "The attitude I have seen here is not consistent with any civil rights protests I have seen in Atlanta," Reed had told the New York Times, "and certainly not consistent with the most respected forms of civil disobedience."

Observed Hertzberg: "Whether he's right about Occupy depends on whether the Bonus Army (1932) and the Poor People's Campaign's 'Resurrection City' encampment (1968, after Dr. King's assassination) count as 'most respected' or just respected."

The Bonus Army is an interesting precedent. The Depression threw many World War I veterans out of work, and while the federal government promised them a bonus, they couldn't collect it until 1945. Frustrated and desperate, thousands of veterans, family members, and supporters gathered in Washington and created an encampment in a public park as a protest. While police and military troops eventually forced an end to the encampment, some historians credit the Bonus Army occupation with helping defeat President Herbert Hoover in the 1932 election. Several years after Franklin Roosevelt's election, the veterans got their bonuses. And their protest contributed to the creation of the GI Bill of Rights.

In many Occupy cities, incidentally, veterans are among the protesters, and it was a veteran who was wounded by police late last month during the Oakland, California, protest.

Many critics assume that the Occupy movement is a youth movement, carried on by students and young adults who don't have jobs. In fact, Occupy is more diverse, in age, than it is given credit for. But young people are heavily involved, and that is significant. Young Americans are often accused of not being involved in civic life. The Rochester Establishment - business and government leaders - spends a great deal of energy trying to reach out to young adults, to get them to stay here and be involved in the community. A lot of them are involved. And some of them are expressing that involvement at Washington Square Park.

It's encouraging that throughout the country, young people are so heavily involved in Occupy. They were involved in the 2008 presidential campaign, helping send Barack Obama to the White House. Since then, Obama has disappointed, dismayed, and discouraged many of them - for

reasons that form part of the base of their protest. The past few years might have turned them off from politics completely; instead, they are a major force in the Occupy movement.

Many Americans are worried about the problems of wealth disparity, joblessness, and corporate greed. But Republicans in Washington have been shouting down the concerns, peddling the message that equality is class warfare and that fair taxation will kill jobs. Democrats, for the most part, have covered in the corner. Until Occupy Wall Street, hardly anybody was doing anything in response.

Will the Occupy movement have any effect? Only if political leaders listen and act. Occupy has been compared frequently to the Tea Party movement, and certainly the Tea Party has had an effect, yanking the Republican Party sharply to the right and gaining an influence on national policy that is larger than the movement's numbers (or its public support). Could Occupy have a similar impact?

In a New Yorker **column** last week, Hendrik Hertzberg concluded that "translating the visionary protest of the Wall Street Occupiers into the grubby Washington politics of electoral calculation and legislative maneuvering is unlikely to be as easy as it was for the Tea Partiers and the Republicans."

"The Tea Party," Hertzberg wrote, "is simply better adapted to - and, despite its angry face, less alienated from - the actually existing environment of American politics and government." And, Hertzberg noted, the Tea Party has gotten money - lots of it - from the Koch Brothers' PAC and Dick Arney's Freedom Works "while Fox News and talk radio provided it with a ready-made apparatus for organizing and propaganda."

Significantly, the Tea Party set out almost from the beginning to put Party sympathizers in office, targeting less conservative incumbents in Republican primaries. Republican leaders got the message and, said Hertzberg, "the impact on Republican governance, if that's the right word, was unmistakable." Republicans in Congress are behaving in a way they never would have if it weren't for Tea Party pressure.

It's too early to know whether Occupy will gain that kind of influence. At the moment, much of the Establishment - inside politics and outside - seems dismissive. But the Occupiers have a lot going for them. Polls have repeatedly indicated that most Americans are deeply unhappy with the federal government and that Congress is less popular than President Obama.

Most respondents in a recent Time magazine poll said they feel that the political debates in Washington aren't addressing their concerns. Ninety-three percent said they don't consider themselves a member or a follower of the Tea Party movement. A majority said their opinion of the Occupy protest is "very" or "somewhat" favorable.

And on a couple of key Occupy issues: 86 percent said they agree that "Wall Street and its lobbyists have too much influence in Washington," and 79 percent agreed that "the gap between rich and poor in the United States has grown too large."

With much of the American public concerned about the issues Occupiers are protesting, Republicans ought to be worried. They don't act as if they are, though. And sadly, 56 percent of the respondents to the Time poll said they think the Occupy movement will have "little impact on American politics."

That probably reflects the depth of Americans' disappointment with their government and their distrust of it and of the larger American "system." Americans, Isabel Sawhill wrote in a Brookings article last month, used to believe that they had unlimited opportunity, that hard work would pay off. Now, said Sawhill, "they are coming to believe that the system is rigged against them, the deck stacked in favor of Wall Street and against Main Street."

In fact, the system is rigged against many Americans. And those whose interests are enhanced and protected are doing all they can to make sure that it stays rigged.

For Occupy Wall Street and those of us hoping for its success, it's not that we think life itself must be fair. It's that we don't think government, its laws, and its services should favor those whose money gives them the most influence.

Success for the Occupy movement is dependent on continuing occupation, and the attention that produces, in cities throughout the nation. Some critics argue that the local Occupy movement is irrelevant to Occupy Wall Street, since Wall Street is in New York, not here. But that assumes that Wall Street's actions have an impact only in Manhattan. And so in Rochester, protesters must be permitted to occupy Washington Square Park overnight. The Occupation is a form of speech, and they must be permitted to exercise it.

The mayor doesn't have to side with the protesters. But he can recognize that this is a First Amendment issue, and that the protesters' rights take precedence over park rules. He can meet with the Occupiers, explain his concerns about public safety, and get an agreement on such things as sanitation.

And yes, if Richards permits Occupy Rochester to stay overnight, that would mean that he would have to do the same with other protests - regardless of how unpalatable or controversial the subject. That's what the First Amendment is all about.

If Richards doesn't change his mind, City Council - which has been characteristically silent on the issue - ought to intervene. And if the law won't permit protests like this one, Council can amend that law.

It is important that the Occupy movement continue and grow, here and elsewhere. A year from now, Americans will elect a new president (who, by the way, could very well name one or more new members of the Supreme Court). We will elect a third of the members of the US Senate and all of the members of the House of Representatives. The financial problems of the United States didn't create themselves. They were created by powerful financial interests, and government let them do it. The disparity between the rich and the rest of the country didn't happen by itself;

government let it happen.

The Occupiers are calling attention to those problems in a way that no one else has. They must continue to do that - and more of the 99 percent must join them.

And government must not restrict their right to protest.



"Morrow Family"

11/08/2011 11:05 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Wash Post: Police to 'adjust tactics' for dealing with Occupy D.C. protesters, chief says

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/police-to-adjust-tactics-for-dealing-with-occupy-dc-protesters-chief-says/2011/11/07/gIQAuh1JxM_story.html

Washington (DC) Post
Monday, November 7, 2011

Police to 'adjust tactics' for dealing with Occupy D.C. protesters, chief says

By Tim Craig

The one-month-old Occupy D.C. movement has grown "increasingly confrontational and violent," the District's police chief said, citing Friday night incidents in which some demonstrators trapped conservative activists inside the city's convention center and four protesters were hit by a vehicle.

The police department will "adjust tactics as needed to assure safety," Cathy L. Lanier said Monday. She did not detail those adjustments, but they could mark a turning point in the police department's relationship with the group camped at McPherson Square.

Lanier's remarks came as her agency is under scrutiny. On Monday, amid pressure from protesters and their attorneys, police agreed to reexamine the decision not to charge the driver in what appear to be two hit-and-run pedestrian incidents Friday at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Police in other cities have moved to restrict camps and demonstrations affiliated with the Occupy Wall Street movement. District police, however, have had a largely cooperative relationship with the protesters. They have blocked off streets to allow marches without a permit, monitored McPherson Square to help keep it safe and looked the other way when instigators have taunted them.

But that could be changing, as was evident during a tense standoff Monday afternoon between officers and protesters outside police headquarters.

"The Metropolitan Police Department supports an individual's right to assemble," Lanier said. "We do not condone, nor will we tolerate, violence or aggression." She described the group as peaceful last week but distributed videos Monday showing some protesters blocking the doors of the convention center and pounding on windows.

"That is no longer a peaceful protest," she said.

Lanier's statements seemed to reinforce comments she made in mid-October, although they were not specific to the District. "The psychology of crowds is very unique," Lanier said at an event hosted by the Institute for Education. "I think we're at risk for some very large, very violent protests here in the United States. And they can spark off instantly."

Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D), who was arrested in April for blocking traffic in a voting rights demonstration, echoed Lanier's concerns. He called on "all involved in the Occupy D.C. demonstrations to show restraint" so that the

movement is not “discredited by violence.”

Leaders of Occupy D.C., who vow to continue their protest through the winter, insist they have been peaceful.

“My concern is for the safety of everyone,” said James Ploeser, 30, an Occupy D.C. organizer from Takoma Park. “We are a nonviolent, peaceful mass movement that is open, transparent. If the police chief can’t see that, she needs to watch more videos.”

And there are few signs that the National Park Service, which oversees McPherson Square, has had problems that would warrant it moving in on the group’s camp.

“We don’t have any issues with these folks in the areas of D.C. that we patrol,” said David Schlosser, a Park Police spokesman. “If there is something that needs to be addressed by us, we will address it.”

In a sign of the support that the group continues to receive, the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. visited the group in McPherson Square on Monday night.

Still, D.C. police have landed in the center of a widening public debate over the handling of Friday’s events at the convention center.

More than 500 protesters descended on the building to protest an Americans for Prosperity dinner honoring Ronald Reagan , blocking nearby intersections and sitting in front of some convention center doors.

At one point, according to witnesses and video, some protesters tried to storm the building. Videos posted on conservative blogs show three older attendees on the ground after they tried to leave the building. Conservative activists said the women were pushed to the ground, but protesters released their own videos Monday that they said prove they did not push anyone to the ground.

Although D.C. police had cordoned off an eight-block radius to give demonstrators unimpeded access to the streets, four protesters were injured after being struck by a vehicle.

Police stopped the suspected driver about two blocks from the scene, but no charges were filed. Instead, police issued jaywalking citations to three demonstrators who were hit. Police agreed to reopen their investigation Monday after protesters held a news conference to offer evidence suggesting that the driver deliberately struck two sets of protesters, about two blocks apart.

“One driver hit this person right here and then went around the corner and hit a family of three at the intersection,” said Adam Green. “We cannot allow it to be precedent that peaceful protesters are mowed over by cars with no proper investigation or arrest by police.”

Occupy D.C. protesters noted that the police report that referenced the driver of the car spoke of only three demonstrators struck at Seventh Street and Mount Vernon Place. The group produced a second police report taken at the same time on L Street for a “hit and run” where Georgia Pearce of Moss Point, Miss., was also struck.

Pearce, who suffered a concussion, said she was trying to cross the street near the crosswalk on Seventh Street to join another group of demonstrators when she saw a “silver four-door sedan” coming at her from “the wrong direction.”

“I was trying to get him to slow down so I could step out of the way,” Pearce said. “Instead he rushes up to me, and I end up putting my hands on the car hood, and he pushes at me and pushes me, and that is all I remember.”

Two witnesses said they saw the same car turn the corner and travel south on Seventh Street, where an Ohio couple and their 13-year-old son were struck while demonstrating in the intersection of Mount Vernon Place.

Infuriated that police did not interview them before announcing that the driver was not being charged, the victims and several dozen Occupy D.C. supporters marched on police headquarters Monday afternoon. When they arrived, a

line of officers guarded the doors and refused to allow the witnesses or victims to enter the building to give statements.

After a 30-minute standoff, police agreed to allow them to enter the building to make statements.

“Hopefully, this will lead to easier actions down the road and justice for everyone,” said Heidi Sippel, who was struck at Seventh Street and Mount Vernon Place.

Staff writers Juliet Eilperin and Allison Klein contributed to this report.



David Barna/WASO/NPS
11/16/2011 06:40 AM

To Barbara Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Celinda
Pena/WASO/NPS@NPS, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Frances Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Geoffrey Suiter, Jeffrey
cc
bcc
Subject newscip: Wall Street Journal - Occupy DC Allowed to Keep
On Occupying D.C. Park

Wall Street Journal
Nov 16, 2011

Occupy DC Allowed to Keep On Occupying D.C. Park

By Ryan Tracy and Jared A. Favole

The Occupy DC encampment two blocks from the White House will remain occupied, at least for now.

Federal authorities said Tuesday they have no plans to remove protesters aligned with the Occupy Wall Street movement. Officials from the National Park Service, the agency in charge of McPherson Square Park where the protesters are camping, met with activists to discuss discussing expectations for health and safety and decided against eviction.

"I believe there's been pretty good compliance," Sgt. David Schlosser of the U.S. Park Police said afterwards.

That stands in stark contrast to New York City, where hundreds of riot-clad city police officers early Tuesday moved to clear Zuccotti Park of protesters and their tents. Similar crackdowns were under way in Oakland, Calif., and Portland, Ore.

Since the federal government administers parks in the nation's capital, the Obama administration has authority over the protests here. White House spokesman **Jay Carney** didn't address the Washington protests directly Tuesday, but he said that President **Barack Obama** was aware of raids elsewhere and that the president believes each city should make its own decision about how to handle the protests.

"We would hope and want as these decisions are made that a balance is sought between a long tradition of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech in this country...and also the very important need to maintain law and order and health and safety standards," Mr. Carney said.

Joe Gray, a 23-year-old protester who has been living at the McPherson Square encampment since October, said efforts to shut down the protests wouldn't work.

"The more they poke the bear, the angrier it gets," he said.

Mr. Gray quit a job restoring fire-damaged homes earlier this year and is looking for work. For now, he plans to camp out at the square through the winter. "I'm actually kind of excited for the cold weather," he joked. "It's going to send the fair-weather occupiers home."



"Morrow Family"

11/17/2011 11:15 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient:>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Wash Post editorial: Officials should prepare for closing Occupy D.C. encampments

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/officials-should-prepare-for-closing-occupy-dc-encampments/2011/11/16/gIQA9RoVSN_story.html

Washington Post
Thursday, November 17, 2011

EDITORIAL

Officials should prepare for closing Occupy D.C. encampments

NO MATTER ONE'S views about Occupy Wall Street and its imitative protests across the country, it's hard to quarrel with the principles that propelled New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I) to clear Lower Manhattan's Zuccotti Park. From the start, Mr. Bloomberg expressed a commitment to the First Amendment rights of protesters, but he also stressed the importance of guaranteeing public health and safety. When those two goals clashed, the mayor was right to take action.

In an early-morning raid Tuesday, New York police swooped down on the park, clearing it of protesters, as well as the tents, generators and other encampment paraphernalia that had occupied it for two months. To be sure, there were incidents, such as the banishment and arrest of reporters trying to cover the event, that should have been avoided. But police largely acted with restraint, and the well-planned operation was without the violence that has accompanied similar actions in other cities. More important, contrary to the claims of critics who likened it to crackdowns in despotic countries, the effort was not undertaken to end the protest or to squelch its message about the concentration of economic and political power. Demonstrators were allowed back in the park but without tents and other gear needed for an indefinite stay.

The problems of Occupy Wall Street have not been restricted to Manhattan. In camps across the country, there have been mounting issues with noise, sanitation, safety and crime. Conditions, as a Post report noted, seemed more akin to a police blotter than a political demonstration, with a sexual assault in Philadelphia, drug overdoses in Portland, Ore., and a shooting in Oakland, Calif.

Fortunately, trouble has been more limited so far in Washington, where Occupy D.C. encampments have been set up in McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza. There has been cooperation between officials and protesters. Not only has the National Park Service gone the extra mile to accommodate protesters by looking away from violations of no-camping rules, but some members of the D.C. Council have endorsed the campers' right to stay. Clearly, the District's experience as host to the nation's protests has equipped it to deal with the current situation.

How long that status quo will last, though, is a matter of some concern. Businesses near McPherson Square say they are being adversely impacted, and earlier this month D.C. Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier warned about the "increasingly confrontational and violent" character of the protesters. The group at Freedom Plaza has a permit that expires Dec. 30, and we have to wonder what will happen then. Any thought that cold weather would drive protesters away seems unrealistic. It's worrisome that, as sources have told us, federal officials, who have sole jurisdiction over the plaza and square, and city officials, who are most impacted by the occupations, aren't really talking about the

next step.

“I think we should continue to monitor the situation, and once circumstances become such that health, sanitation or safety become an issue, we are going to have to ask them to leave as overnight guests,” said D.C. Council member Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3). Since turning out the lights isn’t an option, it’s important that officials develop ways to deal with what could be an increasingly thorny situation.



"Morrow Family"

11/17/2011 11:23 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Civil Rights Legal Groups Demand Records on Federal Law Enforcement Involvement in Coordinated Crackdown on Occupy Movement

<http://www.salem-news.com/articles/november172011/occupy-foia-lawsuit.php>

Salem (OR) News
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Civil Rights Legal Groups Demand Records on Federal Law Enforcement Involvement in Coordinated Crackdown on Occupy Movement

PCJF and NLG Mass Defense Committee File Multi-Agency Requests

(WASHINGTON D.C.) - The Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF) and the National Lawyers Guild Mass Defense Committee filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests today with the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the National Park Service (NPS) requesting that the agencies release information that they possess related to the involvement of federal agencies in the planning of a coordinated law enforcement crackdown that has taken places in multiple cities against the Occupy Movement in recent days and weeks.

The FOIA to the various federal law enforcement agencies states: "This request specifically encompasses disclosure of any documents or information pertaining to federal coordination of, or advice or consultation regarding, the police response to the Occupy movement, protests or encampments."

The Occupy Movement has been confronted by a nearly simultaneous effort by local governments and local police agencies to evict and break up encampments in cities and towns throughout the country. It is now known that mayors and other local officials have met together on conference calls in recent weeks and developed a coordinated strategy to dislodge and break up the encampments using common talking points including a public pretextual rationale to justify police action.

Mara Veheyden-Hilliard, Executive Director of the Partnership for Civil Justice and the co-chair of the National Lawyers Guild's National Mass Defense Committee, states: "The severe

crackdown on the occupation movement appears to be part of a national strategy to crush the movement. This multi-jurisdictional coordination shows that the crackdown is supremely political."

"The FOIA requests seek critical information regarding the role of federal law enforcement agencies," Verheyden-Hilliard explained. "The Occupy demonstrations are not criminal activities, and police should not be treating them as such. This protest movement for social and economic justice has captured the imagination of the country. The coordinated effort of law enforcement to suppress it is a reflection of its political challenge to the status-quo."

"We see the scapegoating of these movements, the attacks at night, and in general tactics designed to terrorize and to scare protesters away," stated Heidi Boghosian, Executive Director of the National Lawyers Guild. "This request is critical to the transparency that is required in order for the people of the United States to be informed as to the U.S. government's action in regard to free speech activities."

Read the Freedom of Information Act request here:

<http://www.justiceonline.org/commentary/occupy-crackdown-legal.html>

The Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF) is a not-for-profit constitutional rights legal and educational organization which, among other things, seeks to ensure constitutional accountability within police practices and government transparency in operations. It is counsel on the Barham and Becker class action cases in which more than 1,000 persons were falsely arrested during protests in Washington, D.C., resulting in settlements totaling \$22 million and major changes in police practices. The PCJF previously brought the successful litigation in New York challenging the 2004 ban on protests in the Great Lawn of Central Park. It is counsel with the National Lawyers Guild in Oakland, CA challenging police mass arrest tactics. It won a unanimous ruling at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals finding the MPD's unprecedented military-style police checkpoint program unconstitutional. The PCJF previously uncovered and disclosed that the D.C. police employed an unlawful domestic spying and agent provocateur program in which officers were sent on long-term assignments posing as political activists and infiltrated lawful and peaceful groups. For more information go to: www.JusticeOnline.org.

*The National Lawyers Guild was formed as the nation's first racially integrated voluntary bar association, with a mandate to advocate for fundamental principles of human and civil rights including the protection of rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. The Guild has championed the First Amendment right to engage in vigorous political speech for 75 years. The Guild has a long history of defending individuals accused by the government of espousing "dangerous" ideas, including in hearings conducted by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and other examples of governmental overreaching now popularly discredited. See e.g. *Kinoy v. District of Columbia*, 400 F.2d 761 (1968). Since then, it has continued to represent thousands of Americans critical of government policies, from civil rights advocates and anti-war activists during the Vietnam era to current anti-globalization, peace, environmental and animal rights activists. Its Mass Defense Committee is a coordinated body of hundreds of lawyers, legal workers and law students who are defending the free speech rights of the Occupy*

actions around the country.



David Barna/WASO/NPS
11/18/2011 02:21 PM

To Barbara Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Celinda
Pena/WASO/NPS@NPS, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Frances Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Geoffrey Suiter, Jeffrey
cc
bcc
Subject newsclip: The Atlantic - Occupy Wall Street Looks Toward
D.C.

The Atlantic

Nov 18, 2011

Occupy Wall Street Looks Toward D.C.

On Thursday, Occupy Wall Street protesters nationwide marched along with New York's huge crowds, but uprooted from Zuccotti Park, the movement's focus looks to be shifting toward Washington, D.C. Such a move would represent a sea change for the protest, which has so far refused to issue specific demands because members didn't want to play into traditional politics. But little by little, the movement is showing it's willing to engage with Washington lawmakers, and a big march already planned for Washington, D.C. next spring shows the movement is putting ever-more stock in national politics.

Way back in early October, anthropologist and anarchist David Graeber, who helped *Adbusters* conceive of the Occupy movement, told the *Washington Post's* Ezra Klein: "If you make demands, you're saying, in a way, that you're asking the people in power and the existing institutions to do something different. And one reason people have been hesitant to do that is they see these institutions as the problem."

But two months into the movement, Occupy has shown it's more willing to take on specific political issues. A delegation left New York on foot last week, heading for Washington D.C. to demonstrate in front of the Congressional Deficit Reduction Super-Committee, calling on it to repeal Bush-era tax cuts. The spring march calls on protesters to come from all over, establishing a new encampment on the National Mall -- a traditional site for protests from the civil rights movement to the Tea Party. The spring action sounds a lot like the initial occupation of Wall Street, but with a bent towards politics. "We will demonstrate the failure of the Democrats and Republicans in Congress to represent the views of the majority of people," its Facebook page reads. And in contrast to New York, Washington D.C. has so far been lenient about letting the existing Occupy D.C. encampment stay in place in McPherson Square. "The National Park Service certainly recognizes and respects and reveres the First Amendment and especially reveres political free speech," National Parks Service spokesman Bill Line told Washington ABC affiliate WMAL.com. The National Mall is also operated by the Parks Service.

It's too early to call it a change in zeitgeist, but calls for Occupy to take its fight to D.C. do seem to be increasing. The sentiment pops up on Twitter, and the *New York Daily News* talked to an NYU professor who said it was the logical next step.

Mitchell Moss, NYU professor of urban policy and planning, said it's time for the protesters to take their show on the road.

"At this point, I think they should quickly migrate to the Washington Monument," he said. "There's ample space, and close proximity to the decision makers.

"That should be the next stop on their magical mystery tour."

Moss said the protesters were successful in bringing attention to the issue of wealth distribution in the U.S. But he felt additional demonstrations like the one aimed at shutting down Wall Street would work against OWS.

"New Yorkers are a work-oriented people, and there is only a limited amount of patience with people who want to disrupt the city," he said.

Washington Post columnist Harold Meyerson wrote on Wednesday that "systemic failures in law enforcement and public policy" could fuel a serious Occupy political movement. "As the great organizer Bayard Rustin put it, from protest to politics." Filmmaker Alen Gregory made the comparison to the protests against the Vietnam War, which were ultimately successful in Washington. "It's like the difference between when you fall in love, and when you get married. Right now, it's the possibility of something possible," he told the *Village Voice* .

But of course, not all are convinced. "No, OWS shouldn't move to Washington. protests are a dime a dozen here. If OWS had begun in D.C., it wouldn't be in the news today," tweeted Media Matters blogger Oliver Willis. And the protesters themselves have vowed to maintain a presence in Zuccotti Park. But with temperatures dropping in New York and blankets and other comfort items banned in the park, that presence was looking pretty darned meager on Friday.



Carol B Johnson/NACC/NPS
11/22/2011 03:52 PM

To David Schlosser/USPP/NPS@NPS, David
Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS, Lisa
Mendelson-Ielmini/NCR/NPS@NPS, William
cc
bcc

Subject Re: Conference call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC
issues

Available from home all day

From: David Schlosser
Sent: 11/22/2011 03:50 PM EST
To: David Barna; Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini; William Line; Carol Johnson; Jody Lyle; Jeffrey Olson; Maureen Foster; Alma Ripps; Peggy O'Dell; Katherine Kelly
Subject: Re: Conference call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC issues

I am available all day from home.

David

From: David Barna [david_barna@nps.gov]
Sent: 11/22/2011 03:38 PM EST
To: Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini; William Line; Carol Johnson; Jody Lyle; Jeffrey Olson; Maureen Foster; Alma Ripps; Peggy O'Dell; Katherine Kelly; David Schlosser; David Barna
Subject: Conference call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC issues

All

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini called and would like to have a conversation tomorrow Wednesday morning to discuss our messaging on the Occupy DC issues
As most of you know they seem to be on the move today
The Region is starting to get emails from the public like the one below
I will be at home tomorrow [redacted] but can participate
What's a good time in the morning for a call?
Here's our office call in line that we can use for a conference call

Code [redacted] participant
Code [redacted] leader

David

Carter DeWitt
<cdewitt@taxfound
ation.org>

11/22/2011 01:49
PM

To
"lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov"
<lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov>
cc



"Kelly, Kate P"
<Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>
11/22/2011 08:36 PM

To "Barna, David" <David_Barna@nps.gov>, "Mendelson, Lisa"
<Lisa_Mendelson-Ielmini@nps.gov>
cc "Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov"
<Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov>, "Schlosser, David"
<David_Schlosser@nps.gov>, "Line, William"
bcc

Subject RE: 9:30 okay for call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC
issues

Looping Matt. He'll likely hop on as I have a conflict at that time.

From: David Barna [mailto:david_barna@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 8:17 PM
To: Mendelson, Lisa
Cc: Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov; Schlosser, David; Line, William; Lyle, Jody; Olson, Jeffrey; Foster, Maureen; Ripps, Alma; O'Dell, Peggy; Kelly, Kate P
Subject: 9:30 okay for call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC issues

9:30 it is

D

David Barna
Chief Spokesman
National Park Service
Washington DC

On Nov 22, 2011, at 7:47 PM, Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini <lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov>
wrote:

Let's set a time --- how about 9:30 am on the phone line in David B's email? Thx.

Sent by iPad. Typos by Lisa.

On Nov 22, 2011, at 3:52 PM, Carol_B_Johnson@nps.gov wrote:
Available from home all day

From: David Schlosser
Sent: 11/22/2011 03:50 PM EST
To: David Barna; Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini; William Line; Carol Johnson; Jody Lyle; Jeffrey Olson; Maureen Foster; Alma Ripps; Peggy O'Dell; Katherine Kelly
Subject: Re: Conference call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC issues

I am available all day from home.

David

From: David Barna [david_barna@nps.gov]

Sent: 11/22/2011 03:38 PM EST

To: Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini; William Line; Carol Johnson; Jody Lyle; Jeffrey Olson; Maureen Foster; Alma Ripps; Peggy O'Dell; Katherine Kelly; David Schlosser; David Barna

Subject: Conference call Wednesday morning on Occupy DC issues

All

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini called and would like to have a conversation tomorrow Wednesday morning to discuss our messaging on the Occupy DC issues

As most of you know they seem to be on the move today

The Region is starting to get emails from the public like the one below

I will be at home tomorrow [REDACTED] but can participate

What's a good time in the morning for a call?

Here's our office call in line that we can use for a conference call

[REDACTED]
Code [REDACTED] participant

Code [REDACTED] leader

David

Carter DeWitt

<cdewitt@taxfoundation.org>

To

"lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov"

11/22/2011 01:49

<lisa_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov>

PM

cc

Subject

Occupy Dc versus other park users -

I count too!

Just spent 50 minutes being transferred from one national park department

to the other - no one taking responsibility for this mess you all have created.


I have been a resident of DC for three years. In that time I have paid my fair share of federal and DC taxes, donated to charities and supported several volunteer efforts. I live across from McPherson Square Park and almost every Saturday took my book into the park and read. Almost every night I would feed the ducks with bread I purchased at CVS. I fed the squirrels with the nuts Peapod delivered to my door. I am a single mom – my husband passed away six years ago - and I work very hard to pay for two children in college and keep a roof over my head. Do you have any idea how hard that is to do? I am not some spoiled trust fund baby.

Now the ducks are gone, the squirrels are gone and my park bench no longer available thanks to by Occupy DC. The grass is ruined, the trash is horrendous and the rat population has at least tripled. At night I get to listen to their parties, I see under age minors camping there without adult supervision. I get to hear sex, see public urination and be subjected to early morning drums when I have my one day off – Saturday. Even worse is the knowledge that my tax dollars support this irresponsible behavior by the city and federal park service and that you provide police protection to them as they march and as they disturb my peace, my travel to and from work.

Sounds to me like you don't recognize who votes for you – and who butters your bread with their labor. It isn't Occupy DC – it isn't the new generation of class warfare you are propping up - it is me. I am disgusted. I am angry and want this to end. Yesterday I read that the Occupy DC residents at McPherson Square expect to stay into next year. I sincerely hope this is not the case. They need to go home and have someone else support them if they are not willing to work. I have no desire to pay for this via my tax dollars you take from me in so many ways. They do not have a permit and it is unlawful for them to be there. If I tried to camp in one of these parks you would make me leave -

There are thousands of us unhappy and complaining about them – why are you not hearing us?

Laurie Carter DeWitt


Washington, DC 20005

Carter

Ms. Carter DeWitt
Vice President of Development
Tax Foundation
National Press Building
529 14th St., NW, Suite 420
Washington, DC 20045
(202) 464-5110 (Direct line)
www.TaxFoundation.org

The Tax Foundation is guided by the principles of sound tax policy --
neutrality, simplicity, transparency, and stability



"Morrow Family"

11/28/2011 11:06 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient:>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject National Park Service Gives Warning to Freedom Plaza

<http://www.enevspf.com/latest-news/latest-national/29125-national-park-service-gives-warning-to-freedom-plaza.html>

E-News Park Forest (IL)
Monday, November 28, 2011

National Park Service Gives Warning to Freedom Plaza

Kevin Zeese

Washington, DC—(ENEVSPF)—November 28, 2011. Today, Freedom Plaza responded to a memorandum dated November 23rd to Occupy Washington, DC at Freedom Plaza. The response denies serious accusations of assaults, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, lack of sanitation and other issues.

The memorandum, which was also addressed to McPherson Square, is viewed as a first step to eviction and arrest. It was delivered to every tent at Freedom Plaza, posted on the General Assembly Board and delivered to individuals who were present. This was the first notice received by Freedom Plaza.

"Six weeks ago we were warned by the Park Police that before any enforcement action was taken the police would give us written notice of the illegal activities on the Plaza. Freedom Plaza is treating this notice as a threat of eviction and arrest. This is a serious threat to the Occupy Movement in Washington, DC," said Kevin Zeese, a organizer of Freedom Plaza. "The notice contained numerous false accusations against Freedom Plaza and therefore we are providing a thorough response to their claims."

Below is the full response being sent to the Park Service. Also attached are the notice from the Park Service and the Community Occupant Form used at Freedom Plaza when people join the Occupation of Washington, DC at Freedom Plaza.

"We will be alerting our supporters of this attack and expect that the widespread public support for the Occupation of Washington, DC will dissuade the government from taking any enforcement action against us," said Zeese.

#

Occupy Washington, DC responds to notice from Park Service

We received a memorandum from the Park Service dated November 23, 2011. There were several inaccuracies in the memorandum with regards to Freedom Plaza.

First, we support the efforts of the Park Service to protect Freedom Plaza. We have consistently taken great care to protect the Plaza, keep it clean and sanitary. No harm has been done to the Plaza by Occupy Washington, DC. We know the importance of public space and treat it as our commonwealth.

Second, we appreciate the National Park Service tradition of allowing the exercise of First Amendment rights. As we have said throughout this occupation we are acting in the great tradition of citizenship. As the preamble to the Constitution states: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union . . ." We are acting in this great tradition, confronting issues that have been ignored by elected officials in order to create a better country for us and future generations.

Third, our actions are protected by the First Amendment. You recognize that we are exercising our First Amendment rights to Freedom of Speech and our Right to Assemble to Redress Grievances. The language of the Amendment could not be clearer: "Congress shall make no law . . . 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 grievances." We are acting with the protection of the Constitution. We have been flexible to work with other permit holders, but the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and trumps all others.

Fourth, regarding trash, Freedom Plaza is very careful to bring trash to the sidewalk as requested by the sanitation workers. Further, if there is trash that falls onto the sidewalk we clean it up in order to keep the sidewalks clean. We have not seen three trash pick-ups a day, as stated in your memorandum. While there were rats at Freedom Plaza before we arrived, we have only rarely seen any rodent's on the Plaza during our time there. We keep the Plaza, especially the kitchen area, clean and act with intention to minimize any rodent problems.

Fifth, regarding alcohol and drug use, Freedom Plaza forbids the use of alcohol and drugs on Freedom Plaza. Everyone who is part of Occupy Washington, DC signs the "Community Occupancy Form" that makes this clear where they agree to abide by these rules. See attached intake occupancy form. Our peacekeepers monitor activities on Freedom Plaza. Anytime we have had problems with alcohol being used on the Plaza we have called the Park Police if we were not able to handle it ourselves. There have been no incidents of illegal drug use. With regard to assaults, we have monitored these issues ourselves and if we are unable to handle the situation we call the police.

The Occupation of Freedom Plaza, and occupies all over the country, are a dynamic political statement. Indeed it is hard to remember any movement that has occupied so much space in the political dialogue so quickly as the Occupy Movement has done. If any movement lives up to the Preamble of the Constitution and the First Amendment it is the Occupy Movement. As we explained to the Park Service when we applied for our permit (see below), all over the United States Americans are living in tent cities, much like what we show at Freedom Plaza. The tents,

sleeping bags, kitchen and other parts of our tents city has been erected virtually since the beginning of the occupation. The tent city that is the occupation of Freedom Plaza is a stark political statement of the economic reality many Americans are facing today.

Occupy Washington, DC at Freedom Plaza

To: Park Service Ranger Marisa Richardson
From: Margaret Flowers
Date: September 24, 2011

Dear Marisa,

We are writing to let the National Park Service know that we will be erecting a shanty town in the Arts area on Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC in lieu of holding a class or committee meeting there. This is central to our Freedom of Speech and Assembly action in that the United States has seen record foreclosures and bankruptcies, as well as extreme levels of unemployment which are under-reported in official statistics.

The financial stress of Americans shows itself in many ways (e.g., indebtedness, poverty, home sharing), homelessness is one extreme but it is so widespread that a recent study conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 12 of the 23 cities surveyed had to turn people in need of shelter away due to a lack of capacity. The U.S. does a very poor job of counting the homeless, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty reports that approximately 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children, are likely to experience homelessness in a given year. More and more Americans are forced to live in tent cities, their cars or the equivalent of shanty towns, but this is hidden from public view.

Tent Cities Spring Up in Los Angeles, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnnOOo6tRs8>

Obamaville, Tent City in Colorado,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMeEi2aCfrc&feature=related>

Tent Cities on the Rise in US,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD5eWwqyYi0&feature=related>

For Sale, Welcome to U.S. Tent Cities (New Jersey),
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxDnlvblR0Q&feature=related>

Dozens of Tent Cities Crop Up in the U.S.,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loNB3Px2NQk&feature=related>

Tent City USA, Southern California,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnVTqJjV5Uc&feature=related>

Tent Cities, Homeless Villages on the Rise (Seattle)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnVTqJjV5Uc&feature=related>

Tent City Las Vegas, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQe-zrk29pE&feature=related>

Living in Underground Tunnels in Las Vegas,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDwHy8limtU&feature=related>

Living in the tunnels of New York City,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BYoPUOXhVA&feature=related>

I could fill pages of videos of tent cities and other shanty town living conditions in the United States. These videos demonstrate why we will be creating a shanty town at Freedom Plaza. Corporate-government policies that lead to an extreme wealth divide are discussed statistically to some degree in the media but the visceral reality of it is not seen widely. Economic injustice and the solutions to it are a major focus of our event.

When we erect the shanty town we will take great care not to do any harm to Freedom Plaza. We recognize this is a public space and we will respect that. The Freedom Plaza installation shanty town will demonstrate the dire economic and political realities in America today. It will be a low-impact installation intended to be reminiscent of "Shanty Towns" of times past that are now re-appearing across the country. It will be a simple, easily removable construction that will consist of lean-to structures made of plastic tarpaulin (classic blue tarps), suspended with bamboo poles tied down with lines attached to sandbags to project the Freedom Plaza surface. These will be augmented with cardboard appliance boxes.

Thank you for ensuring our Free Speech and Assembly rights to petition the government for redress of grievances.

Source: www.occupyWashingtonDC.org



David Barna/WASO/NPS

11/29/2011 06:59 AM

To Barbara Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Celinda
Pena/WASO/NPS@NPS, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Frances Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Geoffrey Suiter, Jeffrey

cc

bcc

Subject newsclip: Huffington Post - Occupy DC Protests On Brink Of
Eviction? New Park Service Memo Raises Concern

Huffington Post

Occupy DC Protests On Brink Of Eviction? New Park Service Memo Raises Concern

Nov 28, 2011

WASHINGTON -- Are Occupy protesters in the nation's capital on the brink of eviction? Some say a notice from the National Park Service, which has jurisdiction over encampments in McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza, suggests yes. But the agency says no.

On Nov. 23, the National Park Service sent the District of Columbia's dual downtown Occupy camps a memo stating that U.S. Park Police officers will be increasing patrol activities in the two federal parks "due to increasing problems of public urination and defecation, illegal drug and alcohol use, and assaults."

The memo goes on to remind protesters that camping is prohibited in both parks and that "National Park Service rangers and United States Park Police officers will continue to monitor the activities within the park, to ensure compliance with health and safety issues and to answer questions. Your cooperation is appreciated."

So is the Park Service threatening the protesters with eviction? Members of the Freedom Plaza protest think so, according to an unsigned response issued on Monday. The memo "is viewed as a first step to eviction and arrest," write Freedom Plaza demonstrators in their group's response. The response also denies "serious accusations of assaults, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, lack of sanitation and other issues."

National Park Service spokeswoman Carol Johnson told The Huffington Post that she does not have specific data about the sanitary or drug and alcohol problems, but that she has heard anecdotal reports that these problems are more serious in McPherson Square than they are in Freedom Plaza.

Jeffrey Light, a lawyer advising the McPherson Square protesters, told HuffPost that there does not appear to be any organized response to the memo so far, but that the issue may come up during a meeting on Wednesday.

Johnson said she is not aware of any assaults in either encampment, other than the alleged sexual assault last week that resulted in a protester being removed from McPherson Square.

Johnson also told HuffPost that the notice does not suggest the Park Service is on the brink of

evicting either group of protesters from the sites they have occupied since the beginning of October.

"I'm not sure I would read anything into it except exactly what it says," Johnson said. "We are trying to communicate with people at Freedom and at McPherson so that they can exercise their First Amendment rights within the guidelines that we have. We just want to let them know what we're seeing so they can help remedy it."

The boundaries of those rights may yet be tested another day.

Johnson previously told HuffPost that the National Park Service is using its ample discretion in allowing protesters to occupy McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza with tents and other structures that at least appear to be prohibited under applicable law. The protesters maintain that the agency's beneficence isn't necessary and argue that their Occupy activities, including camping in the parks, are all protected by the First Amendment.



"Morrow Family"

11/29/2011 08:18 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject DC Examiner: Park Service warns Occupy DC about rats, drugs

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/dc/2011/11/park-service-warns-occupy-dc-about-rats-drugs/1955576>

Washington (DC) Examiner
Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Park Service warns Occupy DC about rats, drugs

By: Aubrey Whelan

The National Park Service posted warnings at two Occupy DC campsites claiming that the protesters are attracting rats, urinating in public and using illegal drugs, sparking new speculation that authorities may be considering evicting the demonstrators.

The National Park Service insists there are no plans to force the protesters from McPherson Square or Freedom Plaza. The service posted warning letters at both sites warning protesters that camping, defined as sleeping and cooking in the park, is illegal.

Related story

- [Occupy DC expects to be raided, tells campers to remove drugs](#)

The warnings also noted that there are "increasing problems of public urination and defecation, illegal drug and alcohol use, and assaults." Rats also are a problem even though the Park Service removes trash from both sites three times a day, the warning states. Park Service officials gave conflicting accounts of whether complaints from McPherson Square business prompted the warnings.

Occupiers at McPherson Square say they're not concerned about a potential eviction, but activists at Freedom Plaza, who deny the Park Service's accusations, said they consider the warnings "a first step to eviction and arrest." If it is, it would be the first evidence of a potential police crackdown on the D.C. occupiers, who have enjoyed broad support from city officials and the Park Service even as similar demonstrations in other cities have been hit with pepper spray and arrested in confrontations with police.

Protesters in Los Angeles and Philadelphia are the latest to face eviction warnings, though Occupy LA has defied the city's deadline to vacate and was still camped out near city hall Monday.

"We're trying to draw on our community support - faith groups, business groups - and have them

contact appropriate officials to try to stop it," said Kevin Zeese, an organizer at Freedom Plaza.

Protesters met with Park Service officials Monday to discuss the warnings, Zeese said.

Jarrad Davis, a protester at McPherson Square, said the Park Service inspected the camp last week, but he described the inspection as routine.

Occupy DC has enjoyed relative peace compared to protests elsewhere in the country, making it a model for the Occupy movement, protesters said. The local demonstrations are highly organized, relatively clean and on good terms with police. Protesters from around the country - from Atlanta to New York to Raleigh, N.C. - have made pilgrimages to the camp in Freedom Plaza to learn how to stage an Occupy protest, protester Joseph Bratcher said.

"We try to learn from the other Occupys that have been shut down," he said. "Everyone comments on how organized and well kept we are."

awhelan@washingtonexaminer.com



Carol B Johnson/NACC/NPS
11/30/2011 01:24 PM

To William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Can you return reporter's call? (Re: Nov. 23
flyer/circulator distributed in McPherson Sq & Freedom
Plaza)

Will do
William Line

----- Original Message -----

From: William Line
Sent: 11/30/2011 12:36 PM EST
To: Carol Johnson
Subject: Can you return reporter's call? (Re: Nov. 23
flyer/circulator distributed in McPherson Sq & Freedom Plaza)

Carol:

Just left a voicemail message on your cell phone to the same effect, but could you please return a call to JEFF MORLEY of Salon.com who has questions about the flyer/circulator piece that was distributed in both McPherson & Freedom last week. Morley's phone number: (202) 413-7841.

Many thanks!

Bill Line
Communications, FOIA & Tourism Officer
National Park Service
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20242
Main office: (202) 619-7222; direct dial: (202) 619-7177; cell: [REDACTED] Fax: (202) 619-7302

Visit us at:
www.facebook.com/gwnppublicaffairs
<http://www.youtube.com/gwnppublicaffairs1>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gwnppublicaffairs>



"Pugh, Tony"
 <tpugh@mcclatchydc.com>
 12/02/2011 03:02 PM

To: william_line@nps.gov
 cc
 bcc
 Subject

Bill, here's the flier. Lemme know if anything is different from what we discussed.
 Tony Pugh
 McClatchy Newspapers
 202-38-6013

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robert Borosage, Campaign for America's Future** <manager@ourfuture.org>
 Date: Fri, Dec 2, 2011 at 12:50 PM
 Subject: Dec. 5-9. Take Back The Capitol and Demand Jobs.
 To: tpugh@mcclatchydc.com

Dear Tony,
 Next week, the unemployed and underemployed are coming to Washington, backed by a powerful coalition of community, labor, Occupy, and other groups around the country to "Take Back the Capitol" and demand action on jobs.
 And **we need you to stand with us.**
 The four-day people's action in Washington, DC to "Take Back the Capitol" will make sure the voices of the 99% are heard during the last session of Congress in 2011.
 Young. Old. Blue collar. White collar. Pink collar. Those who have been thrown out of work or forced to give up a living wage will be in the halls of Congress and occupying the corridors of K Street lobbyists, refusing to be ignored.
 To take part, go to www.99indc.org. Below are more details from the protest organizers. See you there!
 Sincerely,

Robert L. Borosage,
 Co-director
 Campaign for America's Future

TAKE BACK THE CAPITOL

WHEN:	Most folks will arrive in DC on December 5 and head home on December 9, 2011.
WHERE:	The People's Camp on the mall (near 14th St. and Constitution Ave., NW) will serve as our home base where we pitch our tents and enjoy teach-ins, seminars, music, and other entertainment.
WHAT:	Thousands will converge on the nation's capital to show Congress what democracy looks like, shine a light on corporate greed and the human

suffering it has caused, and demand justice for the 99%. For four days we'll hold spirited but peaceful actions, speak-outs, and protests—from the halls of the Capitol to the offices on K Street—as well as spend time together learning and sharing stories, ideas, and inspiration.

A few highlights:

Monday, December 5 – Set up the People's Camp. After checking in, pitching tents, and creating signs and banners, an orientation and entertainment will be hosted by OurDC, a local organization of unemployed and underemployed 99%-ers.

Tuesday, December 6 – Take Back the People's House. From the People's Camp, we'll form groups and fan out to congressional offices, remind members of Congress that the Capitol is the People's House, and demand that they represent the 99%.

Wednesday, December 7 – "Make Wall Street Pay." We'll swarm K Street, the lobbying center for the world's most powerful corporations, and track down those responsible for crashing the economy and causing millions of 99%ers to lose their jobs and homes—while failing to pay their fair share of taxes.

Thursday, December 8 – Demand Justice for the 99%. The day's events will include multiple speak-outs throughout the Capitol, a national prayer vigil with unemployed folks and faith leaders, a mass march on key congressional leaders, and a lively jubilee action.

Friday, December 9 – Take It Home. We'll pack it up and head home, where we need to keep the pressure on our representatives in Congress to do right by the 99%.

If you do not want to receive future updates about events from Campaign for America's Future, please click here to unsubscribe from our events list .

If you received this message from a friend, you can [sign up for updates from the Campaign for America's Future](#).

This message was sent from the Campaign for America's Future. We apologize if you received this message in error. If you would like to unsubscribe from some or all of our emails, please visit our [unsubscribe page](#).

[OurFuture.org](#) | [Donate](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[Subscribe to E-Publications](#)

--

Tony Pugh
National Correspondent
McClatchy Newspapers
202-383-6013
www.mcclatchydc.com

Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS
12/02/2011 05:00 PM

To Carol B Johnson/NACC/NPS@NPS
cc
bcc William Line/NCR/NPS
Subject Fw: URGENT: 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA status needed



Carol -- We need you to please provide us with an estimated completion date by Monday. See the email below from the WASO FOIA Officer relative to this request.

Thanks, Margie

Margie Ortiz
National Capital Region
Public Affairs and FOIA Specialist
Office of Communications
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20242
202-619-7359 (office)
[REDACTED]

Visit us at:
www.facebook.com/gwnppublicaffairs
<http://www.youtube.com/gwnppublicaffairs1>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/gwnppublicaffairs>

----- Forwarded by Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS on 12/02/2011 04:58 PM -----



Charis Wilson/DENVER/NPS

11/30/2011 02:58 PM
Please respond by 11/30/2011

To Janeen Tyson/USPP/NPS@NPS, Margie Ortiz/NCR/NPS@NPS, William Line/NCR/NPS@NPS
cc Maureen Foster/WASO/NPS@NPS
Subject URGENT: 12-49 Light Occupy DC FOIA status needed

Hi Janeen, Margie & Bill,

Just a follow-up to my note I sent you earlier this week asking for an update to this request. As I mentioned I have had a similar request come in so I need a status so I can let this additional requester know when the materials will be ready for Mr. Light's request, [REDACTED] requester to let us provide her copies of the same material we [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I really need to get back to this requester so I need a status update as soon as possible. However, on top of that I got a call from Mr. Light today asking for an update on his request. He sounded friendly enough but there was a bit of a stern tone to his voice, so I would really, really like to be able to provide him with a status update by the end of today. So please get back to me when you get this message with an update.

As he submitted his clarification to us on November 8, his twenty days are up on December 8 which is next Thursday.

Thanks very much,

C.

Ms. Charis Wilson, MLS, CRM
NPS FOIA Officer
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
303-969-2959
Fax: 303-969-2557
1-855-NPS-FOIA

"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." -
Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie

Osborne Reaves/USPP/NPS
12/04/2011 03:41 PM

To
cc
bcc William Line/NCR/NPS
Subject Fw: McPherson Park Update

NPS has responded to set up bike racks in place of the police tape.
Osborne Reaves

----- Original Message -----

From: Osborne Reaves
Sent: 12/04/2011 02:25 PM EST
Subject: Fw: McPherson Park Update

A DC Fire inspector has arrived on scene and is waiting to inspect the structure. Currently, incident command is being established on 15th street and I street. The streets surrounding the park are closed. Currently, there are 5 people on the top of the structure. All D-1 Commanders are on scene.

So far, 9 arrests have been made. The last six were for crossing a police line.

Osborne Reaves

----- Original Message -----

From: Osborne Reaves
Sent: 12/04/2011 01:31 PM EST
To: USPP_Notifications@nps.gov
Subject: Fw: McPherson Park

Osborne Reaves

----- Original Message -----

From: Osborne Reaves
Sent: 12/04/2011 01:22 PM EST
Subject: Fw: McPherson Park

Osborne Reaves

----- Original Message -----

From: Osborne Reaves
Sent: 12/04/2011 12:37 PM EST
Subject: Fw: McPherson Park

Police tape has been placed around the structure. Two individuals crossed the tape and have been arrested for crossing a police line. One individual was arrested for interfering. They have been taken to AOF for processing. Currently, there are 6 individuals who climbed to the top of the structure. SWAT and CIB are en route.

DC Fire is on scene. They are calling an inspector to advise us on their ability to assist.

Osborne Reaves

----- Original Message -----

From: Osborne Reaves
Sent: 12/04/2011 11:50 AM EST
Subject: McPherson Park

Currently D-1 units are at McPherson Park investigating the establishment of a large wooden frame, similar to a house, just south of the statue. The protesters were advised that the structure needed to be

broken down; they were giving a one hour time frame to disassemble it. Right now, the group is congregating, deciding what actions they will take.

Captain Rogers has notified NPS Maintenance. D C Fire is also en route to access the structure. Units from outer districts have been called to assist.



"Morrow Family"

12/04/2011 08:15 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Wash Post blog: Occupy DC demonstrators arrested by U.S. Park Police

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/occupy-washington-demonstrators-arrested-by-us-park-police/2011/12/04/gIQA3RSiSO_blog.html

Washington Post
Breaking News blog
Sunday, December 4, 2011 6:10 P.M.

Occupy DC demonstrators arrested by U.S. Park Police

By Pamela Constable, Tim Craig and Fredrick Kunkle

U.S. Park Police arrested members of the Occupy D.C. demonstration on Sunday as police and protesters clashed over a wood building the group began constructing at McPherson Square.

Police gave demonstrators a one-hour deadline to start dismantling the two-story plywood structure Sunday morning and then began moving in when that deadline passed. Police on horseback cordoned off the area, and officers removed protesters one-by-one before putting them in handcuffs and taking them into custody.

About a dozen demonstrators had been arrested as of 3 p.m., and there were more than 20 demonstrators sitting inside and stop the building, apparently unwilling to move.

It was a rare confrontation between police and the Washington demonstrators, who had up until now avoided the clashes that Occupy protests in other parts of the country have experienced, such as in Boston, New York and California.

The arrests Sunday were peaceful and orderly, but some demonstrators clung to the wooden framework of the structure and refused to move, including at least five who climbed onto the roof and perched on roof beams. Others sat inside the unfinished building and waited for police to enter and take them out. Some were handcuffed and put on the ground and later taken to waiting police vehicles.

Police appeared to be focused on the building itself and were not trying to remove the small tent city that has occupied the square for weeks. Numerous police cars — including a SWAT vehicle -- and emergency trucks surrounded the park, and authorities closed off 15th Street between I and K streets for much of the afternoon.

At 3:30 p.m., police began erecting metal barriers around the makeshift structure and assembled in a line along 15th Street and around the corner onto I Street. As some protesters rushed the gates, some officers pulled out pepper spray but did not use it. Protesters on top of the structure donned masks.

Shortly before 5 p.m., a building inspector who works for the National Park Service evaluated the structure and

deemed it “dangerous,” said Anne Wilcox, a lawyer representing Occupy D.C. Police gave the occupiers three warnings to get out of the building before making arrests.

Following negotiations and warnings from a megaphone, police again moved into the structure at about 6 p.m., arresting at least eight people who had been sitting inside its base. Six people remained on the open roof, and police were working to remove them.

Occupy D.C. demonstrators believed police were just going to arrest those on the building, not those in the rest of the encampment.

“They are treating this as individual acts of disobedience,” Wilcox said.

The building, on the grassy southwest side of the square near the Metro entrance, sparked the issue early Sunday. Police surrounded it shortly after 10 a.m. and gave protesters an ultimatum: Take it down, or we will.

After discussing a way forward for an hour — demonstrators debated whether it was worth making a stand for the structure after lengthy good relations with police — roughly a dozen demonstrators remained inside at the deadline. Police told demonstrators they would need a permit to erect such a building.

Angelica Gatewood, 20, a student from the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy who joined the protest two days ago, said she did not feel as if demonstrators were intentionally trying to step up confrontations with police, as has occurred at other Occupy protests.

“I think they are trying to toe the line,” Gatewood said. “But I think a big part of the movement is challenging the status quo. It’s not going to be quiet.”

As police moved in, some chanted: “Leave us alone. These are the people who oppress us.”

Michael Patterson, 21, of Anchorage, said the structure was meant to symbolize the need to house the homeless. It had been covered with a blue tarp until shortly before the arrests.

“It is counterrevolutionary to occupy space with a permit,” Patterson told the crowd. “Why don’t the cops care about sheltering the homeless in the streets?”

Other demonstrators said the building was designed to provide demonstrators a place to go when it gets cold, and they were planning to build an “eco-friendly” heating device to make the structure sustainable.

Some protesters defended their decision to build the structure, calling it “temporary.”

“They said we were allowed to make structures as long as they were moved around every four days,” said Jennifer Ruse, 28, as she sat near the base of the statue of General McPherson. “This can be moved because we only put it up last night.”

Group chants escalated through the early afternoon, and there was an increasing amount of scuffling, shouting and shoving. Police used three horses and officers in riot helmets to create a barrier, and additional scuffles broke out as demonstrators tried to enter the structure. Some protesters were tackled and subdued.

Patterson later approached police and shouted in their faces, urging them to arrest him. And they did, dragging him away from the square as he shouted: “I didn’t serve in Iraq to have this happen to me.”

Despite the commotion, a group of Quakers had its weekly meeting in the south end of the park.

“I think it shouldn’t be happening,” said Frank Taylor, 62, of Arlington, who said the police response was not necessary. “The protesters are peaceful. They are not doing anything. This is an overreaction.”

But some tourists and D.C. residents drawn to the scene believed the protesters might be going too far.

“This is nuts. Instead of spending 50 days in the park, they could have been looking for jobs,” said Spence Levitas, 69, of Baltimore. “If they are not happy, move to Pakistan or Tahrir Square.”

Staff writers Michael Bolden and Allison Klein contributed to this report.



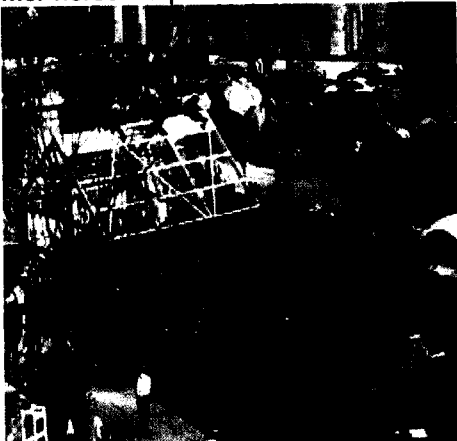
David Barna/WASO/NPS
12/05/2011 06:47 AM

To Barbara Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Celinda
Pena/WASO/NPS@NPS, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Frances Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Geoffrey Suiter, Jeffrey
cc
bcc
Subject newsclip: Washington Post - blog - Occupy DC
demonstrators arrested by U.S. Park Police

Washington Post
blog
December 5, 2011

Occupy DC demonstrators arrested by U.S. Park Police

U.S. Park Police arrested members of the Occupy D.C. demonstration on Sunday as police and protesters clashed over McPherson Square.



Officers surround the wooden structure with police tape. (Michael Bolden/The Washington Post)

Police gave demonstrators a one-hour deadline to start dismantling the two-story plywood structure Sunday morning and passed. Police on horseback cordoned off the area, and officers removed protesters one-by-one before putting them in trucks. About a dozen demonstrators had been arrested as of 3 p.m., and there were more than 20 demonstrators sitting inside the structure. Police moved to move.

WATCH: OCCUPY D.C. STRUCTURE

It was a rare confrontation between police and the Washington demonstrators, who had up until now avoided the clashes that have become a staple of the Occupy movement in other parts of the country have experienced, such as in Boston, New York and California.

The arrests Sunday were peaceful and orderly, but some demonstrators clung to the wooden framework of the structure and climbed onto the roof and perched on roof beams. Others sat inside the unfinished building and waited for police to enter. Police put on the ground and later taken to waiting police vehicles.

Police appeared to be focused on the building itself and were not trying to remove the small tent city that has occupied the park, including a SWAT vehicle -- and emergency trucks surrounded the park, and authorities closed off 15th Street between 1st and 2nd Streets. At 3:30 p.m., police began erecting metal barriers around the makeshift structure and assembled in a line along 15th Street. Protesters rushed the gates, some officers pulled out pepper spray but did not use it. Protesters on top of the structure did not move. Shortly before 5 p.m., a building inspector who works for the National Park Service evaluated the structure and deemed it unsafe. Police gave the occupiers three warnings to get out of the building before making arrests. Following negotiations and warnings from a megaphone, police again moved into the structure at about 6 p.m., arresting those at its base. Six people remained on the open roof, and police were working to remove them.

Occupy D.C. demonstrators believed police were just going to arrest those on the building, not those in the rest of the encampment. "They are treating this as individual acts of disobedience," Wilcox said.

The building, on the grassy southwest side of the square near the Metro entrance, sparked the issue early Sunday. Police protesters an ultimatum: Take it down, or we will.

After discussing a way forward for an hour – demonstrators debated whether it was worth making a stand for the structure. Roughly a dozen demonstrators remained inside at the deadline. Police told demonstrators they would need a permit to enter. Angelica Gatewood, 20, a student from the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy who joined the protest two days ago, intentionally trying to step up confrontations with police, as has occurred at other Occupy protests.

“I think they are trying to toe the line,” Gatewood said. “But I think a big part of the movement is challenging the status quo. As police moved in, some chanted: “Leave us alone. These are the people who oppress us.”

Michael Patterson, 21, of Anchorage, said the structure was meant to symbolize the need to house the homeless. It had the arrests.

“It is counterrevolutionary to occupy space with a permit,” Patterson told the crowd. “Why don’t the cops care about shelter? Other demonstrators said the building was designed to provide demonstrators a place to go when it gets cold, and they used a device to make the structure sustainable.

Some protesters defended their decision to build the structure, calling it “temporary.”

“They said we were allowed to make structures as long as they were moved around every four days,” said Jennifer Ruse. General McPherson. “This can be moved because we only put it up last night.”

Group chants escalated through the early afternoon, and there was an increasing amount of scuffling, shouting and shoving. Helmets to create a barrier, and additional scuffles broke out as demonstrators tried to enter the structure. Some protesters later approached police and shouted in their faces, urging them to arrest him. And they did, dragging him away to Iraq to have this happen to me.”

Despite the commotion, a group of Quakers had its weekly meeting in the south end of the park.

“I think it shouldn’t be happening,” said Frank Taylor, 62, of Arlington, who said the police response was not necessary. “Nothing. This is an overreaction.”

But some tourists and D.C. residents drawn to the scene believed the protesters might be going too far.

“This is nuts. Instead of spending 50 days in the park, they could have been looking for jobs,” said Spence Levitas, 69, of Pakistan or Tahrir Square.”



Jon Jarvis/WASO/NPS
12/09/2011 02:20 PM

To David Barna/WASO/NPS
cc adam_fetcher@ios.doi.gov, david_barna@nps.gov,
Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov, Maureen
Foster/WASO/NPS@NPS, Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov,
bcc
Subject Re: heads-up: Washington Post call on Occupy DC

This is a good opportunity to distinguish the work of NPS/USPP in Washington as the center of First Amendment experiences. The focus by USPP on "quality of life" ensures the safety of the occupiers and visitors while respecting their rights to protest.

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director
National Park Service
"Working with extraordinary people
to make America's best idea even better!"
David Barna/WASO/NPS



David Barna/WASO/NPS
12/09/2011 01:55 PM

To Peggy O'Dell, Jon Jarvis, Maureen Foster,
william_line@nps.gov, Matt_Lee-Ashley@ios.doi.gov,
adam_fetcher@ios.doi.gov, Sue Waldron
cc david_barna@nps.gov
Subject heads-up: Washington Post call on Occupy DC

Washington Post reporter Robert McCarthy has contacted US Park Police spokesman David Schlosser with some questions: are we ramping up? Are we taking a more aggressive posture? Has our relationship with the protestors changed since the 2 story building was taken down? What's the difference between McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza.

David is working with Chief Chambers on a response. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He plans to run a story on Sunday about Occupy DC, the USPP portion will be a small sidebar.

David



"Morrow Family"

12/09/2011 07:42 PM

To <Undisclosed-Recipient;>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Wash Post blog: D.C. 'being abused by the Occupiers,'
Board of Trade CEO says

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/city-being-abused-by-the-occupiers-dc-board-of-trade-ceo-says/2011/12/09/gIQAyF7hiO_blog.html

Washington Post
Post Now blog
Friday, December 9, 2011 5:10 PM

D.C. 'being abused by the Occupiers,' Board of Trade CEO says

By [Annie Gowen](#)

The head of the Greater Washington Board of Trade said Friday that the business community in Washington has lost patience with the Occupy D.C. protesters, because their encampments on McPherson Square and at Freedom Plaza are hurting tourism and local businesses and could become a magnet for crime.

"We are well past the patience point with Occupy D.C.," Jim Dinegar, president and CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, said Friday. He was interviewed for the Kojo Nnamdi show on WAMU-FM. "The District is being abused by the Occupiers."

Dinegar faulted the National Park Service and U.S. Park Police for not taking a harder line with the protesters, who have been camped out in McPherson Square since Oct. 1 without a permit. The Freedom Plaza group does have a permit for its encampment.

"McPherson Square will be a toxic waste dump for the next couple of years," Dinegar predicted, adding that businesses such as Georgia Brown's restaurant and the nearby Starbucks have been impacted by the ongoing protest.

Dinegar criticized the "roving bands of Occupiers" whose actions have caused major traffic delays around the District in recent days. More than 70 were arrested in protests along K Street on Wednesday during a day of action targeting the lobbying industry that snarled traffic and delayed bus service for hours, angering many commuters.

"You've made your point. ... We wish you well wherever you go after you leave Washington," Dinegar said.



"Morrow Family"

12/10/2011 07:55 PM

To "Dave Barna" <david_barna@nps.gov>

cc

bcc William Line/NCR/NPS

Subject Wash Post blog: The Establishment escalates its anti-Occupy D.C. rhetoric

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/mike-debonis/post/the-establishment-escalates-its-anti-occupy-rhetoric/2011/12/09/gIQA84GviO_blog.html

Washington Post
District of DeBonis blog
Saturday, December 10, 2011

The Establishment escalates its anti-Occupy D.C. rhetoric

By Mike DeBonis

There are signs today that The Man's posture of salutary neglect toward Occupy D.C. might be coming to an end.

First you have Mayor **Vincent C. Gray** (D) telling WRC-TV's **Tom Sherwood** that the public is starting "to lose patience" with the protests, which are now approaching their third month.

And then you have **Jim Dinegar**, CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, appearing today on WAMU-FM's Kojo Nnamdi Show, offering some of the most aggressive comments to date on the ongoing protests.

- "Businesses are well past the patience point with Occupy D.C. ... The District is being abused by the Occupiers."
- "McPherson Square will be a toxic waste dump for the next couple of years to clean that park up."
- "People are reluctant to go downtown. ... This is tourist season and you want to attract people to the downtown area, not repel them."
- "When you're looking to attract that next 15 or 20,000-person convention ... these aren't the images you want to see on TV."
- "Unless someone begins to push back, this will continue to escalate. ... 'Well, you got kicked out of Philly, come on down here. You got kicked out of New York, come on down here.' No, don't come down here!"

That is quite a departure from what have been the standard talking points to date, which have expressed “mutual respect” between businesses, residents and protesters and the need to balance First Amendment rights with the city’s desire to conduct business as usual. Question is, where is this new sentiment coming from?

Notably, a group representing the businesses and property owners most directly affected by the protests at McPherson Square and Freedom Plaza isn’t yet joining Dinegar’s calls to oust the protesters ASAP.

”We certainly want to respect the Occupiers and their rights,” said **Karyn Le Blanc**, spokeswoman for the Downtown Business Improvement District. “This is unprecedented and uncharted territory. We are watching and monitoring what’s going on, and we’ll continue to do that until somebody makes a determination that they will be allowed to stay for an indefinite amount of time or whether they will be asked to leave.”

Note that Dinegar in his comments did not criticize Gray and District government for their handling of the protests. His ire is directed squarely at the federal government: “More of this rests with the Department of Interior and the Park Service in giving the permits and extending it,” Dinegar said. “There is no city in the country except for the Washington, D.C., area that has accommodated these protesters to this extent.”

In other words, what you’re witnessing here is the first throbs of what could become a major headache for the White House in the coming weeks.



David Barna
<david_barna@nps.gov>
12/13/2011 07:53 PM

To "Deputies, Associates" <Alexa_Viets@nps.gov>, Alma Ripps
<Alma_Ripps@nps.gov>, Bert Frost <Bert_Frost@nps.gov>,
Brian Joyner <brian_joyner@nps.gov>, Bruce Sheaffer

cc

bcc

Subject News clip: Fox News - Issa: \$400G in Stimulus Funds
Stomped On at Occupy D.C. Park

Print

Close

Issa: \$400G in Stimulus Funds Stomped On at Occupy D.C. Park

Published December 13, 2011 | FoxNews.com

ADVERTISEMENT

Rep. Darrell Issa, the chairman of the House oversight committee, is asking the Obama administration to explain how it could allow Occupy protesters to destroy \$400,000 worth of landscaping and refurbishment by setting up camp in a D.C. park.

Issa wrote to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Tuesday requesting he reply to an eight-page letter detailing the decisions of the National Park Service to withhold evictions of protesters who had clearly set up a tent city despite NPS' rules barring camping at the park. Issa said NPS' laxity toward enforcing its own rules has resulted in protesters killing "newly planted grass that had been funded by the stimulus" and "wasting much of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money used to rehabilitate McPherson Square."

"While the merits of this stimulus funding are debatable, we can all agree that once the federal government invested the funds, no government agency should have allowed it to be damaged or destroyed when it legally could have been prevented," Issa wrote.

"The National Park Service and U.S. Park Police are firmly committed to upholding Americans' First Amendment rights while also enforcing our nation's laws, guarding public safety, and protecting the resources with which we are entrusted," Adam Fetcher, a spokesman of the Interior Department said in a statement to Fox News.

"To that end, the U.S. Park Police have been working closely with the District of Columbia, the Metropolitan Police Department, the DC Department of Health and others to ensure that demonstrations associated with the 'Occupy' movement are conducted safely and in compliance with the law," the statement said.

Issa pointed to Recovery.gov, which says Fort Myer Construction Corporation was awarded \$424,600 to rehabilitate the park with new grass, concrete curbs, refurbished benches, light poles, water fountains, paint, chain fencing, trash cans and light meters.

Issa said much of the refurbishment was "damaged or destroyed" by Salazar's department permitting "illegal camping" in the park. Issa went into great detail about NPS' definition of camping, and accused NPS of rejecting its own rules by declaring the protest a "24-hour vigil" rather than camping.

"This situation raises questions about why those decisions were made, who participated in making them, and whether political judgments played a role in not enforcing the law," Issa added. The rehabilitation work was completed in Spring 2011.

Among other things, the letter asked Salazar to document communications between the Interior Department and the White House regarding the Occupy protests as well as NPS

communications about its deliberations on whether to evict the demonstrators.

Last month, NPS warned the group that it would be evicted from the park, which is just blocks from the White House. D.C. police tried to forcibly remove them earlier this month when they tried to build a wooden structure without a permit.

But the protesters filed a motion with a district judge who approved an injunction to allow the group to remain in the park until it receives notice from NPS 24 hours in advance that they are to vacate. Without it, U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg say they can not be forced to leave. He then scheduled motions for Jan. 31, allowing protesters to claim victory against any "surprise" evictions.

"We are reviewing the letter from Chairman Issa and will respond accordingly," Fetcher said.



David Barna/WASO/NPS
12/14/2011 06:39 AM

To Barbara Baxter/WASO/NPS@NPS, Celinda
Pena/WASO/NPS@NPS, David Barna/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Frances Cherry/WASO/NPS@NPS, Geoffrey Suiter, Jeffrey

cc

bcc

Subject newsclip: Washington Post - Issa challenges Occupy D.C.'s
claim to McPherson Square

Washington Post

Issa challenges Occupy D.C.'s claim to McPherson Square

By Tim Craig, December 13

Amid rising tension between Occupy D.C. protesters and some congressional leaders, a House committee is investigating why the National Park Service has allowed demonstrators to remain camped in McPherson Square.

The probe by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee represents a new turn in the debate locally and nationally about whether Occupy Wall Street protesters should be allowed to stake claim to public property as part of their demonstrations against what they say are economic and political inequalities.

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), the chairman of the committee, sparked the investigation with a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar this week, accusing Occupy D.C. of damaging McPherson Square after \$400,000 in taxpayer funds were spent in recent years to improve it. He also questioned whether the Park Service has disregarded its own rules by making exceptions for the 10-week-old protest.

Citing a federal law that appears to prohibit camping in the square, Issa demanded that Salazar turn over by Jan. 3 "all communication" among Park Service officials, the White House and Occupy D.C. protesters. Issa also wants a "written explanation" on why the Park Service allowed demonstrators to "camp in McPherson Square" and a complete accounting of all arrests related to Occupy D.C.

"While the protesters' continued occupation of the park appears to violate the law, the NPS has not taken any action to enforce the relevant statute," Issa wrote. "This situation raises questions about why those decisions were made, who participated in making them, and whether political judgments played a role in not enforcing the law."

Interior officials did not directly address Issa's letter and gave no indication Tuesday that they would shift their stance toward the protesters.

The letter, which comes as three Occupy protesters enter the second week of their hunger strike for D.C. voting rights, represents the first direct congressional intervention in the protest on K

Street.

But in a city where skepticism of congressional Republicans runs deep, the letter could help galvanize a movement that is struggling to come up with a plan for sustaining itself through the winter.

On Tuesday, the gaunt and weary protesters on the hunger strike held a day-long sit-in outside the Capitol Hill office House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio). “They are stepping all over us, and we can’t let that continue,” said Rooj Alwazir, 23, a McPherson Square dweller who accompanied the hunger strikers to the Hill.

A separate protest group, Stop the Machine, has a Park Service permit to keep tents in Freedom Plaza, but the demonstrators in McPherson Square, affiliated with the Occupy Wall Street movement, do not have a permit to remain in the park overnight.

While police across the country have cleared out Occupy encampments in their cities — there was an early Tuesday morning raid on a park near Baltimore’s Inner Harbor — Park Service officials largely have adopted a policy of nonconfrontation with the McPherson Square protesters.

Backed by D.C. leaders sympathetic with the protesters’ goals, federal officials have stressed that they have been trying to uphold the citizens’ right to picket the government. Although more than 100 tents crowd McPherson Square, the federal officials have said there is precedent for allowing temporary structures on Park Service land as a part of a protest.

Adam Fetcher, Salazar’s press secretary, said the agency is working with D.C. leaders to “ensure that demonstrations associated with the Occupy movement are conducted safely and in compliance with the law.”

“The National Park Service and the U.S. Park Police are firmly committed to upholding Americans’ First Amendment rights while also enforcing our nation’s laws, guarding public safety and protecting the resources with which we are entrusted,” he wrote.

In his letter to Salazar, Issa accused the Park Service of allowing protesters to kill newly planted grass and damage upgrades to the park that had been funded with a \$400,000 grant from President Obama’s 2009 stimulus bill.

“We can all agree that once the federal government had invested the funds, no government agency should have allowed it to be damaged or destroyed when it legally could have been prevented,” Issa said.

Issa’s letter comes as some local business leaders are growing weary of the demonstrators. Over the past two weeks, more than 100 Occupy D.C. demonstrators have been arrested for blocking traffic and for other acts of civil disobedience. The protests are aimed at a host of concerns, including perceived corporate and lobbyist influence on government.

Several high-ranking D.C. officials said the Park Service should try to avoid a high-profile clash with the protesters.

“We don’t want the same thing to happen here as has happened in other cities,” said Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.). “We support their underlying message. We just want them to be careful about the rights of others while they get their message out.”

On Tuesday, the leaders of D.C. Vote, an advocacy group, accompanied the hunger strikers to Capitol Hill to press for voting rights and local control over the D.C. budget. Adrian Parsons, Kelly Mears and Sam Jewler sat in wheelchairs in front of Boehner’s office for more than four hours in an effort to speak with him.

The speaker declined because he was focused on “getting Americans back to work,” his spokeswoman said. The protesters questioned why Congress is worried “about grass seed in a park” but not “D.C. democracy.”

Staff writer Annie Gowen contributed to this report.