



Portage Police Department

Chief Keith Klafke

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“Protecting our community and its quality of life by delivering exceptional law enforcement services”

Demonstration Guidelines

An individual or groups have the legal right to assemble and voice opinions based on their First Amendment Rights. The Portage Police Department respects this right with the overall goal that the events are safe, non-violent, and not destructive of public and private property. The police department’s presence is intended to protect all participants of the demonstration and deter criminal and illegal activity. The listed items below can assist in providing a safe environment for all:

- Permits are generally not required to protest in the City of Portage. If the organizer/s is seeking use of City owned property such as a park or wants to organize a march/parade on a public street, a Special Use Permit is required. These forms are available at City Hall located at
115 W. Pleasant St or contact City Hall at 608-742-2176.
- The organizer should confer with the police department to discuss the intent, location, timeframe, and approximate number of expected people at the demonstration prior to the event.
- The group shall observe all local ordinances and state laws. Criminal activity is not protesting and will not be tolerated. Individuals that are violent or disorderly could adversely impact the entire group’s right to legally demonstrate. The organizer or group should not tolerate this behavior and remove these individuals.
- Sidewalks, entrances to stores fronts, roadways or other public thoroughfares shall not be obstructed, *Portage Ordinance 46-36 Loitering and obstructing streets and sidewalks prohibited*.
- Signs shall not be constructed from material that could become an offensive weapon such as baseball bats, 2x4’s, pipes, etc.
- **Violence and property damage will not be permitted.** This may constitute as an “unlawful assembly” which shall be dispersed. *Wisconsin State Statue 947.06*

If you have any questions for seek further guidance, please contact the Portage Police Department at (608)742-2174.