

Public Viewing Guidelines

Our Goal. To honor First Amendment Rights while protecting the people of Providence and our guests.

The Providence Public Safety Team will ensure the safety and well-being of all persons who live and work in, or visit Providence during the 77th US Conference of Mayor Annual Meeting. The enormity of this task cannot be overstated.

Rationale:

1. That the public health, welfare and safety of the community require that the movement of vehicular traffic on such roadways be lawfully conducted with a minimum of disruption;
2. That the practice of unhindered or unrestrained picketing or demonstrating on such roadways causes disruption of police, fire and emergency services, and injury to persons regardless of participation in the march, assembly or demonstration;
3. That the practice of multiple demonstrations on the same day in different locations in municipalities has unreasonably deprived citizens of the police, fire and emergency services.

Registration:

1. That individual protestors and/or protest groups give notice in writing, via the Registration Form, of the maximum number of persons participating, the names of the organizer(s), and contact info at least 24 hours before such inception.
2. That they are seven authorized Public Viewing Areas for public demonstrations for each major events:
 - a. PVA 1 – Burnside Park located to the northeast of BoA City Center.
 - b. PVA 2 – Not used.
 - c. PVA 3 – Exchange Terrace; along sidewalk on RI Foundation side.
 - d. PVA 4 – Blue Cross Plaza; at top of Sabin and Empire (across from DDC).
 - e. PVA 5 – Sabin Street; along sidewalk on ProJo side (across from RICC).
 - f. PVA 6 – Station Park; along Finance Way on north side of road.
 - g. PVA 7 – Roger Williams Park Baseball field located near the Park Avenue Park entrance leading to the Temple to Music.
3. That no parades, in conjunction, with public demonstrations will be authorized.

What you can expect from the City of Providence:

- A safe environment in which you are allowed to express your First Amendment Rights.

What we expect from individual protestors and/or protest groups:

- That you respect and obey the rule of law;
- That you respect the opinions of your fellow protestors;
- That you must stay within designated area;
- That bags and backpacks are subject to search;
- Consumption of alcohol or public drunkenness will not be tolerated;
- No graffiti, destruction or vandalism;
- That you not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic in an unreasonable manner.

Authorized Materials:

- Handheld bullhorns (not to exceed 75 decibels);
- Cardboard and/or paper signs, posters, banners;
- Food / drink Items for personal consumption.

Unauthorized Materials:

- Any weapons or items that could prove to be harmful to others;
- Glass containers of any type;
- Any alcoholic beverage;
- Spray paint cans or other propellants;
- Chairs and Tables or other like items;
- Fireworks or other pyrotechnics.