

Information for Organizers Regarding San Antonio Parade Permit Applications

On February 21, 2008, United States District Judge Xavier Rodriguez issued a Preliminary Injunction prohibiting the City of San Antonio from requiring Parade Permit holders to pay for traffic control officers and rental of traffic control devices (including barricades, cones and the like) because aspects of the City's parade permitting policies and practices violate the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. This injunction remains in effect until further order of the Court. As of today, February 6, 2009, there has been no further order of the Court and we believe that the Court will eventually order the City's Parade Permitting practices and policies to be permanently enjoined.

The Coalition for Free Speech in San Antonio has recently learned that the San Antonio Police Department, in violation of the Court's Injunction, has required some Parade Permit holders to pay for rental of traffic control devices, police services, or both.

THE SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT LEGALLY REQUIRE YOU TO RENT TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES OR TO PAY FOR POLICE OFFICERS.

PLEASE DO NOT LET THE SAPD BULLY YOU INTO PAYING OR INTO CANCELLING YOUR EVENT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY!

If you are planning a street march, procession, parade, or other event for which you need a Parade Permit, please contact the Coalition for Free Speech in San Antonio to get the most up-to-date information and advice about the District Court's Parade Permitting Injunction.

If you have been told by the SAPD or any City official that you must pay for traffic control devices and/or police services in connection with a Parade Permit, please contact the Coalition so we can communicate this information to District Court Judge Fred Beiry, to whom the case is now assigned.

In addition, although the Court's Injunction does not address the practice of requiring Parade Permit holders to obtain insurance coverage, this requirement is unconstitutional. If you have been told by the SAPD or any City official that you must obtain insurance in connection with a Parade Permit, please contact the Coalition.

Finally, it is also unconstitutional for the City to charge revenue-generating fees or to require insurance for use of City Parks and Plazas. If you have been told by the City Parks Department or any City official that you must pay a fee or get insurance in order to hold a rally or demonstration in a City park, please contact the Coalition.

To contact the Coalition, please call Amanda Haas at 228-0201, M-F 9-6.