

The following draft operating principles have been approved by the Free Speech Work Group for public input and comment. Citizens of Minneapolis are invited to provide feedback and make recommendations on these principles. A public meeting will be held on June 26, 2007 at 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Minneapolis City Hall. Written comments should be sent to the Office of the City Clerk at: Cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or to:

City Clerk
350 S. 5th Street, Room 304,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Free Speech Work Group Draft Operating Principles

1. The City of Minneapolis Free Speech Work Group is committed to insuring that all parties-delegates, party officials, visitors, demonstrators, the media and residents who wish to express their first amendment rights through free speech, association and petition during the conduct of the 2008 Republican National Convention - will be treated with dignity and respect.
 - (a) Security efforts should not result in overly broad restrictions or access to demonstrations and demonstrators by law enforcement personnel.
2. The Work Group expects that any security plan will be designed to provide a safe environment for all participants during the week-long event. This includes an opportunity for lawful demonstrations, the exercise of free speech and association rights and minimal disruption by unnecessary street closings or access restrictions to people who live and work in the City.
 - (a) The City of Minneapolis permitting process will be a timely, coordinated and accessible process for demonstrations, parades, and street closures during the RNC convention developed in partnership with the cities of St. Paul and Bloomington;
 - (b) Demonstrators will be notified of the permit requirements in a timely fashion to allow demonstrators to plan and brief participants on their rights;
 - (c) The permitting process will explore and incorporate the best methods for accommodating last minute applications and surreptitious demonstrations.
3. The Work Group will advocate for all security plans to focus on identified security threats or risk. These plans should ensure that any time/place/manner restrictions are used only as absolutely needed to protect legitimate public safety purposes. These plans should not be used to unreasonably restrict the rights of residents, delegates and

demonstrators without specific information or reason to believe that the group is linked to a crime that was or is about to be committed.

Unacceptable restrictions include:

- (a) The lengthy and unlawful detention, searching and fingerprinting of demonstrators accused of minor offenses;
 - (b) The use of pens by law enforcement personnel to detain demonstrators and others in proximity to demonstrators who become part of mass arrest;
 - (c) Police monitoring and surveillance of political groups and activist who are law abiding citizens engaging in legally protected activities.
4. The Work Group views any and all acts of violence and unlawful behavior by anyone participating in events during the period of the Republican National Convention as unacceptable.

Once the Operating Principles are finalized, it is recommended that a directive be sent from the City Council to all City departments with obligations and responsibilities during the RNC to develop and implement a comprehensive plan that fully implements the Free Speech Work Group Operating Principles.