



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

Executive Order No. 2025-7

**PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PROTEST AND FACILITATING SAFE AND
PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has long been a center of civic action, from the labor uprisings of the Haymarket era, to the Civil Rights Movement, to the youth-led protests for racial and economic justice in our time; and

WHEREAS, these movements demonstrate that peaceful protest is not a threat to public safety, but rather an essential expression of democracy and a catalyst for social change; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the right of the people to petition their government, to peaceably assemble, and to speak freely without interference or retaliation; and

WHEREAS, protesters in Chicago have reported that federal agents have recently engaged in efforts to chill or restrict protest activity near federal buildings; and

WHEREAS interference with the right to protest undermines fundamental rights and risks silencing communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago affirms that protest and dissent are essential to public safety, democracy, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Police Department ("CPD") possesses the resources, training, and professional expertise necessary to safeguard the exercise of First Amendment freedoms within our city, consistent with principles of community safety, accountability, and respect for civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Brandon Johnson and CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling and related Chicago infrastructure departments have demonstrated that Chicago can safely and peacefully manage large-scale protest activity. This includes protests related to the 2024 Democratic National Convention and the weekly, sometimes

daily, demonstrations where hundreds of Chicagoans engage in First Amendment activity, including critique of government. These events demonstrate that local leadership is best equipped to both safeguard free expression and protect public safety; now, therefore

I, BRANDON JOHNSON, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Management of First Amendment Assemblies.

During a First Amendment assembly, if CPD determines that, due to directives or actions from representatives of the federal government, the assembly cannot continue at the original site, CPD will attempt to collaborate with assembly leaders to develop a mutually acceptable plan for the lawful expression of First Amendment rights. Any such plan may include, but is not limited to, an alternative location for the First Amendment assembly and will account for the assembled individuals' constitutional rights under the First Amendment and reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, including the need to maintain public safety.

Nothing in this order is intended to supersede or conflict with applicable provisions of the Municipal Code of Chicago ("MCC") governing public parades or assemblies and other applicable MCC provisions, and this order shall be construed consistently with those provisions.

Nothing in this order is intended to supersede or conflict with CPD General Order G02-02 ("First Amendment Rights"), Special Order S06-06 ("Response to Crowds, First Amendment Assemblies, and Civil Disturbances"), or other applicable CPD policies.

Section 2. Chicago is a Welcoming City

CPD will implement the requirements of this order in accordance with applicable CPD policies, the Welcoming City Ordinance (Chapter 2-173 of the Municipal Code of Chicago), the Illinois TRUST Act (5 ILCS 805/1 et seq.), and the Illinois VOICES Act (5 ILCS 825/1 et seq.).

Section 3. Commitment to the People.

This Executive Order reaffirms the City's commitment to ensuring that public protest remains a vital and protected part of our civic life.

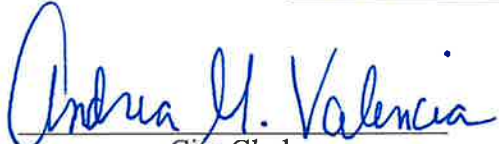
Section 4. Effective Date.

This Order will take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk and shall expire 60 days from its effective date unless extended by another executive order of Mayor Johnson.



Mayor

Received and filed on 9/16/2025



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.
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