



Applying for permits for demonstrations

The U.S. Constitution and various federal, state and local laws give groups the legal right to demonstrate and protest. At the same time, the police have an obligation to ensure that on such occasions the demonstrations/protests do not have a negative an impact on the immediate neighborhood, that order is maintained and that people are not endangered. Groups planning a demonstration/protest should bear in mind the following:

- **Notification.** Notify the local police precinct that a demonstration/protest will take place. To find the proper precinct *and* the link to the precinct website, click on the [NYPD Precinct Finder](#). Visit the precinct in person or call the Community Affairs detective/officer (get their phone number on the precinct website) to discuss your event, including your theme, where you want to stage the event, the projected number of attendees, the length of the event, busses and other possible logistical issues.
- **Guidance.** The NYPD Community Affairs detectives and officers are knowledgeable and helpful – they should be your point of first contact. Let them know what you need and they will guide you. Depending on the number in attendance at the event they will allow you to use a portion of the sidewalk and/or the street for your demonstration/protest. See the NYPD [guidelines](#) below for more information. While there is no charge to hold such an event, there are possible [restrictions](#) (e.g., proximity to schools, houses of worship or diplomatic sites or places like Times Square and Herald Square) so they can advise you exactly where you can hold your events.
- **Sound.** If you plan to use amplified sound you will need a *Sound Device Permit* from the police precinct in which the event will take place. Access the application [here](#). The fee is \$45 and the precinct will only accept a bank teller’s check, certified check or money order (no cash, personal or corporate checks). Applications for sound permits must be made at least (5) days prior to date upon which sound device is to be used or operated.
- **Parks.** Certain areas (e.g., Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, Ralph Bunche Park/Isaiah Wall) are parks and require an additional step. If you want to have any activity in a City park with more than 20 people, or where you would like to reserve a specific area within a park, you need to complete a *Parks Special Event Permit Request*, available [here](#). You can fill out the application online and pay the \$25 fee by credit card. The Parks Department needs 21-30 days to process a permit request and may add some requirements, such as insurance certificates. Some “parks” are private property (i.e., they do not belong to New York City) so different rules apply.

Community Affairs detectives and officer are your key contact. If they are not in their office, leave a detailed message on their voicemail, including the time and location of your event. These hard-working officials are often out of the office on business and will return your call as soon as possible.

A copy of the NYPD Information Sheet on Protests/Demonstrations is found below.



INFORMATION ON PROTESTS / DEMONSTRATIONS

The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution, 1st Amendment states: Congress Shall Make No Law Prohibiting Freedom of Speech; or The Right of the People Peaceably to Assemble. However, notification to the local Police Precinct of occurrence is requested.

PROTESTS / DEMONSTRATIONS:

- There is no fee or permit required to form a protest / demonstration.
- The Police Department will designate all demonstration areas and has the right to place group in sight & sound of the targeted location.

Protestors must remain in the designated demonstration area during the event.

- Protestors may not obstruct the sidewalk or a building entrance(s).
- Signs cannot be attached to wooden, metal or plastic sticks. Signs may be hand held or attached to cardboard tubes.
- Protestors must not stand or climb upon structures at location and surrounding areas.
- Protestors must not attach signs to private or city property, such as walls: police barriers, trees, etc.
- The Police Department will determine the placement of platform risers or stages.
- The distribution of informational flyers is allowed on the sidewalk by designated members of the group which will be determined by the Police Department. Distributing flyers to vehicles in traffic is prohibited.

SOUND DEVICE PERMIT (Amplified Sound):

- There is a fee and a permit is required to use a sound device.
- The fee for the use of a sound device is \$45.00 for each day and \$5.00 for each consecutive day up to a maximum of (4) additional days.
- Application for sound permits are made at the local Police Precinct where the protest/demonstration is to occur.
- Application for sound permits must be made at least (5) days prior to date upon which sound device is to be used or operated.
- A permit to operate a sound device is valid only at location(s) and date(s) designated during hours specified on permit.
- A sound device will be so operated as not to unnecessarily interfere with peace and comfort of residents at or near the designated site.
- **Air Horns, Whistles, Drums, and other band instruments does not require a Sound Permit and are legal to a certain extent, until deemed unreasonable noise, especially when used during late night or early morning hours.**
- The Police Department Will **Not** Issue A Sound Permit:
 - Between the hours of 10pm and 9am.
 - Any vehicle or other device while it is in transit.
 - Any location within 500 feet of a school (when in session), court house (when in session), church (when in session) or hospital (24 hours).
 - Any location where the Police Department, upon investigation, determines that a designated site constitutes a threat to the safety of pedestrians or vehicle operators.

SIDEWALK MARCH:

- There is no fee or permit required to form a Sidewalk March.
- Sidewalk March routes are recommended to follow the flow of vehicular traffic.
- Sidewalk March is usually the most direct route.
- Sound devices are not permitted during any march.

INFLATABLE RAT:

- There is no fee or permit required to display inflatables.
- Inflatables can be placed on the sidewalk or on the street, but must not impede pedestrian traffic or vehicular traffic.
- Inflatables can't be placed in "No Standing Anytime" zones or in Bus Stops.

If you need more information or have any questions regarding protests / demonstrations, please contact your local precinct's Community Affairs Officer(s).