

Bureau: National Park Service
Issue: Demonstration Permit After Action Review
Park: Lafayette Park

Background:

- On June 8, Answer Coalition (AC) had a First Amendment permit to conduct demonstration activities at Lafayette Park and the Ellipse for roughly 9500 attendees. Permit was allowed from 6am to 10pm. The permittees shared an intent to “surround the White House”.
- The event was staffed based on all received (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED] utilizing a proven special event planning process. This included numerous meetings with the NPS Permits' Office, the permit holder, partner law enforcement agencies and the DOI Solicitor's Office.
- Roughly (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED] officers and 1 permit monitor were assigned to the event. In addition to this staffing plan, the USPP also deployed a special detail consisting of approximately (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED] officers to support the NCR Pride events occurring that same day.
- USPP utilized and established an Incident Command Structure to support the combined activities to maintain span of control and deploy the resources that were anticipated as being necessary to provide an appropriate security plan for the events.
- By 12:45pm at least one USPP officer was assaulted by an event attendee when they actively resisted arrest for vandalism and permit violations.
- By 3pm the Permit Monitor was physically assaulted (smacked) by a demonstrator, followed by having paint and bottles thrown at (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED].
- At roughly 9pm the permit was revoked for violation of the permit when tents and other structures were being erected to form an encampment.
- The event was highly coordinated with the other federal agencies who may be impacted/involved and coordinated with Secret Service and Metro PD. To include a (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED] prior the event, with the Director for Federal Security and Homeland Threats, National Security Council.

Key Points:

- Permit Monitor was acting within the scope of (b) (6), (b) [REDACTED] responsibilities and within policy when conducting intervention activities. There were multiple permit monitors out sick so only one permit monitor was assigned. This event would have ideally had 4 monitors.
- This demonstration was occurring on the same day as the annual DC Price Parade and events, making deployment of USPP officers challenging to be at all locations. The use and redeployment of USPP resources throughout this operational period between the two events were continuously monitored and adjusted as needed for event management and law enforcement response.
- Intel in advance of this permit revealed no obvious indications of intentional disruption or violent activities by attendees.
- Secret Service erected anti-scale fencing along Pennsylvania Ave. NW and E Street NW, focusing disruptive activities and vandalism to NPS property outside the fencing.
- Event Permittee failed to have sufficient event marshals who have responsibility for crowd management. Certain marshals appeared to interfere with USPP to aid disruptive attendees.
- SOL was onsite with USPP during the event and agreed that the revocation of the permit after the assaults would have further escalated the situation. Revocation after unpermitted

structures were erected was appropriate approach. SOL has been increasing their presence during events when event planning efforts point towards a need for on-site legal advice.

- Clean up efforts are highly impacting the historic resources, WHHO staff and NAMA staff. Costs of clean up are being compiled now. Estimated to be about \$10,000. Clean up efforts complete the week of June 24 by HPTC.
- Communication happened timely and with most key parties being involved as needed. Gap in communication about escalation of activities between permits office and NCR regional office.
- There was a misunderstanding by USPP union regarding the issuance and deployment of riot gear. All gear was appropriately distributed and deployed within policy. That misunderstanding has been corrected between USPP leadership and Union representatives.
- These permitted events are getting more disruptive. There is concern that conventional management methods are not addressing, or consistent with, the behavior that is increasingly exhibited during these demonstrations and new strategies likely need to be developed.
- IT engagement is needed to make sure that all necessary leadership have contact information pre-programmed into their phones for all key parties well before events take place.

Action Items:

- Working to possibly recoup the cost of the clean up as part of a (b) (5).
- Explore opportunity for prosecution of parties who assaulted the Permit Monitor and USPP officer.
- Will revise policy related to permit monitor intervention practices, staffing, and training with USPP.
- Working with SOL to look at modifying permit requirements to require fully documented presence of designated event marshals, greater visibility and documentation of violations, and additional responsibility to permittees on restitution for damages. All in coordination and consultation with DOJ and US Attorney's Office to ensure First Amendment consistency.
- (b) (5)
- Develop standard approved media statements in advance of larger, more complex events to aid in media engagement. Consider having NCR communications staff in command center as staff is available.
- Corrected lack of phone numbers within WASO comms for senior staff to enhance future notification processes. Permit office will engage RDs office when events have significant violations.
- Develop permit mechanisms for holding permit applicant more directly responsible for providing clear information on crowd management, responsible parties, ability to control the event and ability to terminate the event if activities dictate.

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