

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are police at these protests?

LVMPD is committed to protecting all our First Amendment Rights and ensuring that all participants can make their voices heard in a safe manner. Officers are present to make sure that both protestors and the public are safe. Police will not interfere with a protest unless illegal activity occurs.

When does a protest become illegal?

A protest becomes illegal when participants violate the law. The most common violations of the law include the damage of property, harming other protestors or bystanders, throwing rocks or bottles, and intentionally obstructing the roadways. Possession of certain weapons at a protest is also against the law. Participants should check state law and local ordinances to determine what items are allowed.

Are traffic laws in effect during a protest?

Across the Nation there have been numerous instances of protestors and bystanders being injured by vehicles. Sometimes these injuries have been traffic accidents and other times they have been intentional. It is important to know that all traffic laws still apply during a protest. Participants in a protest must stay on the sidewalks and not walk in the roadway or block private driveways. Traffic control devices must be obeyed. This is essential for the safety of protestors and pedestrians.

What is a dispersal order and when is it issued?

Nevada Revised Statute 203 states that when illegal activity occurs when two or more people have gathered, it becomes an Unlawful Assembly. The statute requires a dispersal order to be given to disperse the crowd. A dispersal order will only be given when illegal activity is occurring at the protest. A uniformed police officer will announce the dispersal order in both English and Spanish at 10-minute intervals. The dispersal order may be repeated up to three times depending on the severity of the illegal activity that is occurring.

I'm a peaceful protestor not involved in the illegal activity; do I have to leave when a dispersal order is given?

Once illegal activity occurs at the protest, and a dispersal order is given, **all persons** in the immediate area must leave. Failure to leave after a dispersal order is given is a misdemeanor offense and could result in arrest or citation.

