

BYSTANDERS/ONLOOKERS HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS (ABQ City Ordinance 1-31)

The right to witness stops, detentions, arrests; to overhear conversation between officer and suspect; to inquire name of suspect and if suspect wishes a witness; to record or film police interactions.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Ask if you are free to leave. If the officer says yes, calmly and silently walk away. If you are under arrest, you have a right to know why.

You have the right to remain silent and cannot be punished for refusing to answer questions. If you wish to remain silent, tell the officer out loud. In NM, it is a petty misdemeanor to conceal your identity.

You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings, but police may “pat down” your clothing if they suspect a weapon. You should not physically resist, but you have the right to refuse consent for any further search. If you do consent, it can affect you later in court.

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STREET ACTION SAFETY TIPS

- KNOW YOUR LOCATION: RESEARCH PERIMETER, POLICE STAGING LOCATIONS, AND EXIT STRATEGIES
- WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHING WITH MINIMAL EXPOSURE
- BRING FRIENDS AND FORM AFFINITY GROUPS TO STAY SAFE TOGETHER
- BE INCLUSIVE OF PARTICIPANTS WHO MOVE AT A SLOWER PACE
- BE AWARE OF PROVACATEURS AND THOSE WHO INCITE PEOPLE TO DO VIOLENCE
- DON'T BRING DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR WEAPONS
- BE AWARE OF POLICE MOVEMENT
- BRING PLENTY OF WATER
- IF YOU ARE GOING TO RISK ARREST, HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE FOR LEGAL SUPPORT AND BAIL
- BE PREPARED FOR TEAR GAS/PEPPER SPRAY
- POLICE CAN AND WILL ACT IN ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT, INCLUDING FORCE AND VIOLENCE
- THESE ARE GUIDELINES BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE!

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