

CHAPTER 15.

PARADES, PICKETING, DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC.

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Article I. Parades, Processions and Meetings.Sec. 15-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Meeting. Any assembly together or concert of action between or among five or more persons for the purpose of protesting any matter or of making known any position or promotion of such persons, or of or on behalf of any organization or class of persons, or for the purpose of attracting attention to such assembly.

Parade or procession. Any assemblage of five or more persons participating in, or three or more vehicles being operated in, any march, ceremony, show, exhibition or procession of any kind in or upon the public streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks or other public grounds or places, not including a bona fide funeral procession.

Sec. 15-2. Permit--Required.

No procession or parade shall occupy, march or proceed along any street, sidewalk or any other public place, nor shall any person conduct any public or private meeting on any street, sidewalk or other public place in the city, except in accordance with a permit issued by the mayor and such other regulations as are set forth in this article which may apply.

As to licenses generally, see ch. 9 of this Code.

Sec. 15-3. Same--Application; authority of mayor to designate route of parade or procession, etc.

A written application shall be made to the mayor by any person desiring to have a parade, procession or meeting, setting forth the object, time, place and route of the parade or procession or the object, time and place of the meeting. The mayor shall have authority to designate the route of the parade or procession and the portion of the streets or other public places to be used in such a way as to avoid as much as possible the obstruction or impediment of public travel or public business. The mayor may refuse to issue a permit for a parade, procession or meeting, unless application therefor is filed with him at least twenty-four hours before the time thereof.

Sec. 15-4. Restricted hours for parades or processions.

No parade shall be permitted between the hours of 11:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. or between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M., local time, and no parade or procession shall commence or continue after sunset or commence before sunrise.

Sec. 15-5. Interfering with, addressing abusive language to participants, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person to physically interfere with processions, marches or meetings, or with the persons lawfully engaged therein in the use of any street, sidewalk or other public place, or to address profane, indecent, abusive or threatening language or other fighting words to or at such participants, which would tend to provoke such participants or others to a breach of the peace.

Sec. 15-6. Conduct--Generally.

It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct or participate in any parade, procession or meeting of such character, extent and duration, or of such nature, as to create a public disturbance, to operate as a nuisance or to tend to create or threaten rioting, disorderly conduct or public or private mischief.

Sec. 15-7. Same--Abusive, etc., language by participants.

It shall be unlawful for any person conducting or participating in any parade, procession or meeting to address profane, indecent, abusive or threatening language or other fighting words to or at any person, which would tend to provoke such person or others to a breach of the peace.

Article II. Picketing.

Sec. 15-8. Permitted; conditions.

Peaceful picketing, including demonstrating, in the furtherance of a lawful purpose shall be permitted in the town, provided the same is done under the following conditions:

(a) Picketing shall be conducted only on the sidewalks or other town owned area normally used or reserved for pedestrian movement, including easements and rights-of-way, and shall not be conducted on the portion of a street used primarily for vehicular traffic.

(b) Not more than ten pickets promoting the same objective shall be permitted to use the sidewalks within one block in the town at any one time.

(c) Such pickets may carry written or printed placards or signs not exceeding two feet in width and two feet in height promoting the objective for which the picketing is done; provided, that the words used are not defamatory in nature and would not tend to produce violence. The staff on which such placard is carried shall not exceed forty inches in length, must be made of wood, shall not exceed three-fourths of an inch in diameter at any point and must be blunt at each end.

(d) Pickets must march in single file and not abreast and may not march closer together than fifteen feet, except in passing one another.

(e) If pickets promoting different objectives desire to use the same sidewalk for picketing and such use would result in the presence of more than ten pickets thereon, the mayor shall allot time to each group of pickets for the use of such sidewalk on an equitable basis, but each group shall be permitted to picket subject to the provisions of this section at least once every two hours.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any picket to address profane, indecent, abusive or threatening language to or at any person, which would tend to provoke such person or others to a breach of the peace.

Sec. 15-9. Interference with pickets.

It shall be unlawful for any person to physically interfere with pickets in the use of the sidewalk or to address profane, indecent, abusive or threatening language to or at such pickets, which would tend to provoke such pickets or others to a breach of the peace.

Sec. 15-10. Authority of police.

The police officers of the town may, in the event of the assemblage of persons in such numbers as to tend to intimidate pickets pursuing their lawful objective, through numbers alone or through the use of inflammatory words, direct the dispersal of persons so assembled and may arrest any person who fails to absent himself from the place of such assemblage when so directed by the police.

Sec. 15-11. Maintenance of free passage.

Whenever the free passage of any street or sidewalk in the town shall be obstructed by a crowd, the persons composing such crowd shall disperse or move on when so directed by a police officer as provided in section 15-10.