

Melendez, Yadira

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:07 AM
To: Melendez, Yadira
Subject: FW: Concerns for today's PW meeting item 14, RNC permits

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From: Jacob Flom <jrflom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:00:16 AM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Concerns for today's PW meeting item 14, RNC permits

Please share these concerns with the Public Affairs Committee members regarding agenda item 14 regarding the RNC protests on Today's Public Works Committee hearing -

I am a union leader active in two labor organizations that are participating in the Coalition to March on the RNC. We have concerns about the proposed ordinance regarding protest and speakers platform permits during the RNC. We ask that this ordinance be tabled to allow for communication with community groups to avoid many potential issues that could arise from this ordinance as it is written.

Here are a number of issues or potential problems we have identified in the limited time we have had access to this ordinance:

- The ordinance does not identify the length of time slots for the parade route and speakers platform permits.
- Can organizations apply for multiple time slots?
- Does each individual speaking on the speaker's platform need to register? This is unclear, but the text implies that each individual speaker needs to check in with a City official.

- In the current text, the City would control speaking times and cut off speakers when time expires. Protest organizers should control who speaks and for how long within the permitted time.

- The ordinance would require the City to take on responsibility for providing a sound system. The ordinance does not outline any requirements for the type of sound system that may be needed. Will the City communicate with protest organizers to ensure the sound system is adequate and meets our needs? This should be reflected in ordinance language, but it is not.

- Has the parade route referenced in this ordinance been identified by the city? This has not been communicated to any members of the Coalition to March on the RNC.

- The Coalition to March on the RNC has been submitting permit applications for several months according to the instruction of City employees. This ordinance unfairly resets the timetable and could allow out-of-state groups to submit an application before the local coalition of 60 organizations that has been asking for a permit since last year. The Milwaukee-based Coalition to March on the RNC should be first in line to reserve July 15th.

These are just a few of the concerns and potential problems that need to be addressed before this ordinance is passed by the committee. In the interest of avoiding further conflicts that could be created by this ordinance, we ask that this ordinance be tabled to to allow for communication with community groups including the Coalition to March on the RNC to address these issues.

Thank you,

Jacob Flom
President, AFSCME Local 526
Milwaukee Area Labor Council Executive Board member
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