

# Guide To LC BLM Protests

## Location

- We have started our protests at Memorial Park/the parking lot of La Canada Congregational Church (across the street) because of its location and proximity to Angeles Crest, which is where we march to continue protesting at the Angeles Crest/Foothill corner.
- Please note that if another location is chosen we always keep accessibility in mind as well as considerations for standing room, parking, electricity, sound, etc...

## Time/Date

- We are currently looking to make protests on Sunday from 11am-2pm as most people have availability on the weekends.
- Obviously the time/date are subject to change depending on weather conditions, availability of organizers, etc...
- We are looking to be more consistent in timing to make advertising and planning easier and more routine.

## Sound System

La Canada Congregational Church has graciously offered their portable sound system (speakers and microphone) to us on occasion.

- The speakers require electricity (see below).
- They have also offered space in the parking lot for events or parking for our events. NOTE: Space is unavailable on Saturdays as it is used for the farmer's market.

## Electricity

- The city charges 85 dollars to turn on the power to the Memorial Park Gazebo and an additional 10 dollars per hour. This also requires you submit a permit at least 10 days in advance through the city's website and explicitly request electricity. We have never done this as it is too expensive and restrictive.
- The parking lot of the church across the street has power and we have held our beginning speeches there when the lot is available.
- Generators are available for rent at Home Depot for approximately 50 dollars.
- Additionally we have crowdsourced many items and someone may be willing to lend a generator.

## **Permit**

- While we did get a permit for our first protest and the city was willing to waive all fees, we have not gotten a permit for any of our other events as it is not a requirement and we do not collaborate with law enforcement for events.

## **Signs/Materials**

- While we encourage everyone to bring their own signs we often make between 20-30 signs and hand them out at our protests.
- We have previously asked employees at Target to use the cardboard boxes that they typically throw away after they stock shelves. We have not done this in an official manner as the associates have always just willingly allowed us to take the cardboard when we have approached them.
- We have also purchased cheap tarps from hardware stores to make large cloth banners.
- Megaphones are very useful for leading chants! We have 2 very small ones, but are currently looking for more. We have also asked for people willing to lend them (teachers may be a good resource for this).

## **First Aid/Supplies**

- We currently have a backpack with a wide variety of medical supplies from basic bandaids and pain medication to slings/tourniquets. We obviously hope to never have to use it and mostly use it for larger protests in LA, but we always bring it just to be safe.
- We also receive a lot of donations from people passing by our protests of water and snacks and we try to ensure that we have at least a case or two of water to pass out in the beginning of the protest.
- We also have masks available for people who may show up to our protest without them. Although we have never had anyone attend without a mask.

## **Advertising**

- We have made all of our flyers using Canva (see examples on our instagram @lacanadablm).
- We typically advertise at least 3 days in advance of the protest on our facebook and instagram.
- We also text flyers to our friends/people in the community so they can share it on their social media as well.
- We also send in our flyer and fill out the google form in the bio of the instagram account “@inthistgether\_la” this account posts lists of protests around LA the

day before the protest is scheduled so this must be done at least 2-days in advance of the protest.

- We also work with parents to move our flyers onto parent pages and other La Canada Facebook pages.

## **Rules for our Protest**

1. Any violent or destructive looting statements or behavior is not condoned by or associated with our movement.
2. Protesting will be contained to sidewalks and we will refrain from blocking traffic.
3. Masks are mandatory during protest and social distancing guidelines should be followed whenever possible. Masks will be provided to those who need them, but you will not be permitted to partake in any of our events without a mask.
4. All protesting locations will be accessible, paths will be made clear when necessary, and chairs will be provided for those who need them.
5. Any signs including language of violence, racism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, fatphobia, ableism, white supremacy, or similar ideals are not welcome. All chants/signs/music/etc... are subject to approval by organizers.
6. If the police approach you, please direct them to one of our organizers who will be announced at the protest.
7. We do not engage with counter-protesters, if you are confronted please ignore them and walk away. Do not yell inflammatory things at or otherwise engage with counter-protestors, we are here to engage in meaningful community discussions. If necessary find an organizer to help you de-escalate the situation. It is extremely common for passersby to yell expletives and make obscene gestures at us. We strictly do not reciprocate or engage in this behavior, please just continue to wave or ignore them.
8. Do not take pictures of fellow protestors without consent, we want to protect the identities of our protesters as much as possible and respect their possible desire to remain anonymous. We typically take one photo to publish on our social media pages at the end of the protest, but all attendees have the opportunity to opt-out.
9. If you are approached by the press or anyone looking for information about the movement please direct them to an organizer. Do not make statements to the press unless you have discussed it with an organizer first.

## **Setting up the Protest**

- We typically arrive 30 minutes early for our protest to give us time to set up the sound system, posters, water, practice speeches, etc...

## Starting the Protest

- People frequently arrive late so we typically make an announcement as people arrive that we will be starting in about 15 minutes to give people time to arrive, grab water, and a sign.
- We then deliver a short speech stating why we are at the protest and what the goals of our group are.
- We have also started protests by reading the names of people who have been murdered by police to set the tone and remind people who we are protesting for.
- We then clearly state the most important rules of our protests (this depends on the size of the group as smaller groups can be easily managed by organizers but larger groups will definitely need to be read the full list of rules).
- It is also important to begin a chant as we leave the park to increase the energy and get people ready to protest.
  - We have tried to contact some LC drummers to no avail :(
- Make sure to clearly instruct people to march along the sidewalks as much as possible and then spread out around the intersection of Foothill and Angeles Crest.
- We also do our best to make sure that we talk to anyone who may need special accommodations to make sure that the protest is as accessible as possible.
- One organizer will need to stay back momentarily to help return the sound system and collect any remaining items at the park.

## Chants

- As stated in our rules we do not allow non-black protestors to start chants and we also discourage the raising of fists by non-black attendees. For this reason we keep megaphones to our black organizers.
- “Hey hey, ho ho, these racist cops have got to go”
- “No justice, no peace, no racist police”
- “We want justice, we want peace, we want to defund police”
- “I care about you, I care about me, lets defund L-A-S-D”
- “Take it to the streets, defund the police, no justice, no peace”
- Call and response:
  - “Black lives they matter here” (crowd repeats)  
“Black lives they matter now” (crowd repeats)
  - “When Black lives are under attack, what do we do?”  
Response: “Stand up fight back”
  - “When I say Black lives you say matter” “Black lives”

Response: "Matter"

- "What do we (want/need)?"

Response: "Justice"

"When do we (want/need) it?"

Response: "Now"

## **Ending the Protest**

- While we try to stick to our stated end time, we also adjust to the crowd and may end early depending on numbers.
- One of the organizers will make an announcement using a megaphone that we will be ending the official part of the protest but that protestors are welcome to stay as long as they want. We also direct them to follow us on facebook or instagram and tell them about our next action/protest.
- Make sure that all trash is collected! We always check the sidewalks/streets to make sure that all signs, water bottles, and other trash are collected. We do not need to give the city or any community members another reason to critique us.
- We then lead the group back up to Memorial Park and continue our chants until we reach the park.
- We then typically pass out water to those who need it and collect any signs that people want to return. Again make sure all trash is collected!