



NEWS RELEASE

GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

APPROVED:

Chief Harry P. Dolan

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

FOR RELEASE:

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Chief Harry P. Dolan

Phone: 456-3364

Fax: 456-3490

GRAND RAPIDS POLICE RESPOND TO PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Despite a very large, orderly turnout of war protesters and George Bush supporters, several arrests were made by members of the Grand Rapids Police Department.

Crowds estimated at 500 to 600 people, gathered peacefully at several sites along the presidential motorcade route as well as around Spectrum Health - Butterworth Campus and DeVos Performance Hall. During the president's speech inside DeVos Hall, one person was arrested for trespassing. Another arrest was made at Michigan and Ionia for Inciting to Riot while the President was still in Grand Rapids.

90 day misdemeanor

After President Bush left Grand Rapids, members of the Grand Rapids Police Department continued to monitor a large, unruly crowd that began to block streets in the downtown area. The crowd became aggressive and disorderly as they made their way from Lyon Street to Division Avenue in downtown Grand Rapids. They began blocking the streets to vehicle traffic and at one point attempted to overturn a commercial truck near Fountain and Division. The driver was able to drive away safely. At the intersection of Fulton and Division Avenue, the crowd shut down traffic and surrounded another vehicle, trapping it in the intersection. This driver, too, was able to escape.

Despite officers' attempts at returning them to the sidewalks and to disperse the crowd, the crowd refused. A small number of group members began inciting others to continue blocking the streets, to confront the police and to tell others "Don't let them stop you." They also began to incite the crowd to attack police officers. As a result of their actions, at least seven group members were arrested. During the entire event, approximately ten arrests were made on charges of Inciting to Riot, Hindering and Opposing Police Officers and Failing to Obey the Lawful Command of a Police Officer. All arrests were transferred to the Kent County Correctional Facility.

10 year felony / 10,000 fine

90 day misd.

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