

Free Speech Proclamation

Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA / www.farps.org / December 11, 2020

Thank you for being here in support of our 1st Amendment rights. Before I begin, I want to inform you that we are assembling without an issued permit. I requested a permit to paint a permanent street mural in this exact location entitled "God Bless America," an expression of patriotism and love for my country, but the City of Santa Cruz, after three months of delay and obstruction, has refused to grant me this request. As such, the Santa Cruz Police Department may demand anyone listening to my words to disperse or face the consequences. I have notified Chief Mills of the Santa Cruz Police Department about my event, and that his officers will be violating the first amendment rights to assembly and speech if they attempted to intervene or sanction me, or any of you, with incarceration and/or fines. Although I have chosen to proceed with this protest, I fully understand if any of you feel more comfortable walking away at this time, so I will pause a few moments in recognition of those who wish to disperse now...thank you.

I will be brief. Nearly six months ago, the City of Santa Cruz granted a particular Santa Cruz organization the right to paint a permanent street mural on a public right-of-way, adjacent to where we stand today, under the pretext that the mural is artwork, as if the city was allowing the group the right to erect a stone sculpture in a public park. I challenge that the mural is not artwork, but a marketing and propaganda tool of a national organization with a political charter. As we all know, no two works of art are alike, yet this particular mural is replicated across hundreds, if not thousands, of streets across America--a brand [logo] as recognizable as McDonald's Golden Arches, or the green, Starbucks Mermaid, perched along most street corners, whether one is in downtown New York City or on a dusty road in Arizona. Unwittingly or not, the Santa Cruz organizers of the nearby mural are simple foot soldiers for this national organization. Otherwise, their mural would have taken on an infinite number of other manifestations--that is, true art forms--without diluting its core message.

I am not here to dispute the nearby mural. I am a free speech advocate and believe that all voices must be heard. I believe in expression, not suppression. So, naturally, I would like my mural to have equal access to the same speech platform that the city has erected on Center Street and its environs. Now, it is my turn to project MY voice—a minority voice within a hostile majority echo chamber. I am here today to challenge this denial of my legal right to speech, in symbolic fashion, by painting a "washable" street mural that I simply label, "Free Speech," instead of the permanent, "God Bless America" mural, which is the ultimate embodiment of both my 1st Amendment rights and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment against content discrimination. I stand here today to restore the Constitutional rights of the political minority in our city, and to rebuke the tyrants of City Hall. This is both a warning and a wakeup call to cease illegally silencing and intimidating those who choose not to drink your bitter elixir. Fine me. Incarcerate me. But, you will never deny me my freedoms without a fight.

Which brings me to my **PROCLAMATION**: that the City of Santa Cruz is illegally using art permits as a smokescreen to grant political propaganda speech to groups who share in the city's ideology, while suppressing the speech of members of the community who espouse ideologies which they reject. I refer Mayor Cummings, as well as each member of the Santa Cruz City Council, to the Supreme Court decision *Police Department of the City of Chicago v. Mosley* (1972), as the foundation of my challenges against you.

With that said, I will now begin to paint my "Free Speech" mural, which I dedicate to the silent majority, and to the state of Texas, for its courage to stand up against the blatant election fraud in our country. **STOP THE STEAL!!!** Thank you all for attending--and may **God Bless America !!!**