

November 30, 2020

Santa Cruz Police Department
155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Planned 1st Amendment Rights Street Protest (December 11, 2020)

Dear Chief Mills:

Weather permitting, on December 11, 2020, I will hold a one-person street protest in front of the Santa Cruz Public Library on Church Street, between Center Street and Cedar Street. The event will begin at 4:00pm and end at 5:00pm. The protest will consist of me painting the words "Free Speech" on Church street, on the lane closest to the Public Library. I will do so by using spray cans of liquid chalk, which is a material easily removable with water. Of course, I shall assume SCPD will provide me with the necessary protections for my individual safety, including re-routing traffic away from this area during this one-hour event. Additionally, I will be protesting without an issued permit, as the City of Santa Cruz continues to illegally delay and obstruct my ability to obtain an Encroachment Permit for my permanent "God Bless America" street mural planned at the same street location and, therefore, continues to deny me an avenue to share this newly-created public speech venue to express my personal voice.

As officers sworn to protect the constitutional rights of the American citizenry, including the 1st Amendment rights to assembly and speech, your department is encouraged neither to interfere, obstruct nor sanction me in any way for exercising my speech and assembly rights. Any retaliatory steps taken by you, your officers or the city of Santa Cruz shall be deemed a violation of my 1st Amendment rights, and subject to the appropriate legal recourse.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter that I recently delivered to the Northern California branch of the ACLU, outlining my complaint against the city of Santa Cruz. This particular protest is to bear witness to these rights violations and to encourage prompt reconsideration and approval of my Encroachment Permit request by the City Council.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me before December 11. If the forecast is for rain on December 11, the protest will be rescheduled either before or after December 11, and your department will be given a minimum 24-hour notice of date and time change.

Thank you for your support. Bring your own popcorn.
