




City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

Charles Meeker
Mayor

MEMORANDUM

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Raleigh City Council

FROM: Charles C. Meeker 

DATE: October 28, 2011

RE: Raleigh Police Department's Involvement with "Occupy Raleigh" Assembly

Based on conversations yesterday afternoon, it was my understanding that our Police Department would only be involved with the above assembly if there were an assault on a Capitol Police Officer or other similar disturbance. The news reports this morning that our Police Department, at the request of the Capitol Police, were involved in the arrest of several citizens, including a disabled person sitting on a chair.

Based on the above, I believe that the City Council needs to provide guidance to the City administration as to how to balance the constitutional rights to assembly and to freedom of speech with orderly conduct in our City. I am concerned that the constitutional rights are not being given adequate weight.

Let me ask that the City Manager give a report to the Council as to the steps that our Police Department has taken at the request of the Capitol Police. Let me also put the City Council on notice that I will bring this matter up for discussion near the start of our meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2011.

CCM:act

cc: Russell Allen, City Manager (*via e-mail*)
Tom McCormick, City Attorney (*via e-mail*)
Gail Smith, City Clerk (*via e-mail*)