



JUNE 14, 2025 PROTESTS MPD RESPONSE OVERVIEW



Brandon Gillespie, Police Chief
Modesto Police Department



Protest Protections under the U.S. Constitution

Freedom of Assembly

- The First Amendment guarantees “the right of the people peaceably to assemble.” This means individuals can gather in public spaces to express their views without fear of government punishment.

Viewpoint Neutrality

- The government cannot favor or disfavor protests based on the content of the message or the viewpoint being expressed.

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

- Governments may impose reasonable restrictions on when, where, and how protests occur. These restrictions must be content-neutral and narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest (e.g., traffic control, public safety)



MPD POLICIES

Policy 466- First Amendment Assemblies

- Provides guidance for responding to public assemblies or demonstrations

Procedure 412- Mass Arrest Procedures

- For use when mass arrests are anticipated at the scene of a special or unusual event



CITY OF MODESTO ORDINANCE

Modesto Municipal Code §4-23.02- Restrictions on use of specified items during public assembly

- Ordinance adopted in 2019, items added in 2021
- Public safety-driven, content-neutral regulation, constitutional
- Prohibits any person from utilizing, carrying, or possessing certain items or articles while attending or participating in any demonstration, rally, protest, counter-protest, picket line, march, or public assembly.
- Includes: Limits on wood, metal, and plastic poles, sign material, bats, sprays, projectile launchers, weapons, balloon or bottles with noxious matter, glass or metal containers, open flame torches, shields, bricks, rocks, pieces of asphalt, concrete, pellets, or ball bearings, and the wearing of a mask, scarf, bandana, or any other accessory or item that covers or partially covers the face shielding the wearer's identity, except for coverings worn due to religious beliefs, practices or observances or due to medical necessity; gas masks, impact resistant helmets, laser pointers, umbrellas, bullet, fragment, stab, or impact resistant clothing or equipment, load-bearing vests

Modesto Municipal Code §4-23.02(13):

- Prohibits the wearing of a mask, scarf, bandana or any other accessory or item that covers or partially covers the face shielding the wearer's face from view and conceals the wearer's identity, except for coverings worn due to religious beliefs, practices or observances or due to medical necessity.





Community Concerns

..I am writing as a business owner located in the downtown Modesto area, directly adjacent to Graceda Park. I am reaching out to express concern regarding a protest scheduled for Friday, June 14th, titled the "No Kings Mass Protest.".....Based on the location and anticipated size of the event, I am concerned about potential impacts on the safety and security of nearby businesses — particularly in light of recent experiences where protests of similar nature in the area have escalated into acts of vandalism and theft...

Recent Regional Protests

Los Angeles: June 6-11, 2025

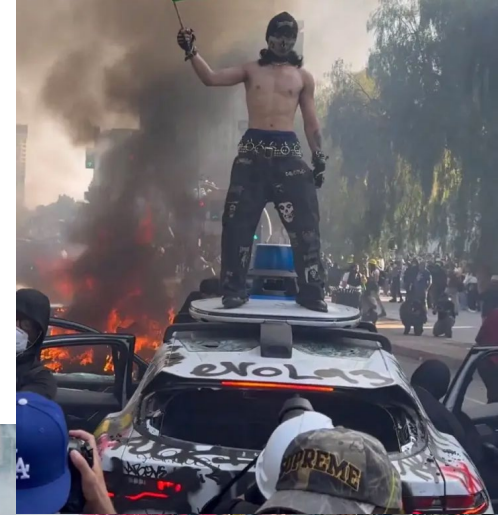
- Approximately 560 arrests
- LAPD chief stated his officers were “overwhelmed” by the number of people engaged in violence and vandalism in the city.

San Francisco: June 8, 2025

- Over 140 people were arrested and two officers were hurt

Santa Ana: June 9, 2025

- Approximately 10 arrested from a crowd of 200 during a protest





June 14, 2025 Protests- Known Information

ICE Out Mass Mobilization Protest- 10th Street Plaza

- Over 2,200 social media likes

No King- National Day of Defiance

- One of the host organizations reported to have received 700 RSVPs to the event

Other Information

- Rumor of Proud Boys attendance to counter protest
- Some social media posts advocating violence



MPD Response to June 14th, 2025 Protests

Timeline

- 7:00 AM: Bomb Dog search of 10th Street Plaza and Graceada Park protest areas
- 10:00 AM: ICE Out Protest at Tenth Street Plaza (estimated 100-150 attendees)
- 11:45 AM: No Kings Protest at Graceada Park (estimated 2,000-3,000 attendees)
 - 12:30 PM: March from Graceada Park to 5 Points
 - 1:30 PM: March back to Graceada Park
- 1:00 PM: Juneteenth Celebration at Graceada Park



MPD Response to June 14th, 2025 Protests

Enforcement Strategy

- Provide a professional police presence as we protect the constitutional rights of individuals to peacefully protest and assemble
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to violence, destruction of property and violations of the law
- Early warnings and education when possible
 - In person contacts, PA announcements, signage
- Focused enforcement to remove non-compliant individuals early, preventing broader disruption and allowing the remaining participants to continue peacefully.



Personnel Deployment Strategy

Plain clothes personnel

- Assigned to monitor the event areas/crowds

Traffic Unit

- Responsible for keeping pedestrians out of the roadway and general traffic enforcement

Sky-1/UAVs

- Responsible for providing overwatch and assisting with any operational needs

Uniformed Contact Teams

- Responsible for contacting anyone observed violating the law or MMC

Uniformed Arrest Teams

- Responsible for arresting individuals and primary contact for anyone believed to be armed with a firearm

Real Time Crime Center (RTCC)

- Responsible for using department cameras to monitor the event and direct personnel to anyone who needs to be contacted

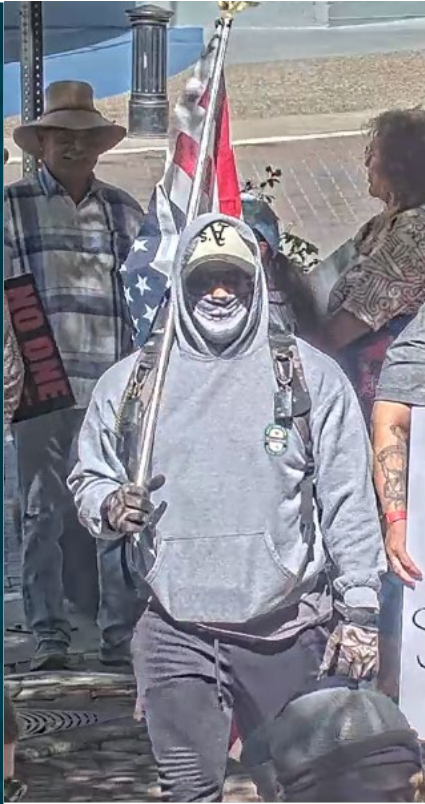


MPD Response to June 14th, 2025 Protests

Enforcement Data

- 5 arrests for violating the mask subsection of the ordinance 4-23.02
- 1 arrest for obstructing officers
- 1 noise violation citation
- 18 traffic citations (e.g., unsafe behavior like hanging out car windows)
- 5 vehicles towed (2 for reckless driving)

10th Street Plaza Protest



MPD Response to June 14th, 2025 Protests

Arrest Tactics

- Despite some personal warnings and PA announcements, several individuals refused to remove their masks clearly worn to conceal their identities.
- One of the masked subjects was arrested within the crowd, four other violators were strategically arrested away from the plaza to avoid escalation.
- MPD used clearly identified police officers in unmarked vehicles to safely and quickly arrest the individuals.
- This prevented the arrestees from retreating into the crowd and increasing the chances of crowd escalation, reduced the safety risks to our officers, and removed the arrestee as a focal point of the crowd, reducing the potential for confrontations.





Contrasting Protest Approaches

Graceada Park Organizers:

- Communicated clearly with attendees
- Promoted lawful behavior
- Assisted with crowd control

10th Street Plaza Organizers:

- Distributed literature encouraging face concealment
- Began chanting loudly when officers provided PA announcements
- Group blocked cross streets as they marched

PEACEFUL PROTEST RULES



1. DO NOT ENGAGE WITH COUNTERPROTESTERS
2. OBEY ALL TRAFFIC LAWS-STAY ON SIDEWALKS, USE CROSSWALKS
3. DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS, ROADS, OR ENTRANCES TO BUSINESSES
4. FIND SAFETY PERSONNEL FOR EMERGENCIES AND AGGRESSORS
5. ACCORDING TO MODESTO MUNI CODES: NO POLES, MASKS, METAL OR GLASS CONTAINERS.

PEACEFUL PROTESTING IS OUR RIGHT UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!



HOW TO STAY SAFE DURING A PROTEST OR ACTION
Things happen fast at a protest or action - it's important to be ready on the ground for what might come up.

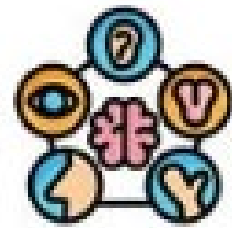
@cvbipocc

	<p>Buddy System Sometimes protests don't go as planned. Go to protests with a buddy, or find a buddy at the protest to be accountable for each other's safety.</p>		<p>Regular Check-Ins Regularly check in with yourself and your buddy/team to support one another in the heat of the action.</p>
	<p>Exit Strategy Always be aware and keep an eye out for exits in case you need to leave a dangerous situation.</p>		<p>De-escalation De-escalate yourself and your people in order to stay safe and grounded.</p>
	<p>Senses Open Keep an eye and ear on the cops and other white supremacists to create a plan in real time in case there is violence.</p>		<p>Stay anonymous by covering up-wear a mask, glasses, dark clothing, and a hat to protect your safety/identity.</p>
	<p>Community Care Care for those around you, whether you know them or not. Care is an act of resistance.</p>		<p>Know Your Rights You have the right to free speech. You have the right to film the police & you have the right to remain silent.</p>

Screen shot this and share



Stay anonymous
by covering up-wear a mask, glasses, dark clothing, and a hat to protect your safety/identity.



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10th Street Plaza Protest



10th Street Plaza Protest





Challenges/Opportunities

Challenges

- Cellular congestion: Interfered with Graceada Park camera functionality
 - Limited observations north of Mancini Bowl

Opportunities

- Increase signage, ensure accuracy of social media posts
- Enhance specific directions and bidirectional communication between the RTCC and field personnel
- Face coverings won't be utilized by officers during protests
- MPD will focus on developing protest group contacts to answer questions, ensure a mutual understanding of applicable rules, and address safety concerns



Summary

The Modesto Police Department wants what most protest groups want: a peaceful event, with no arrests. Our role is to protect constitutional rights while ensuring the safety of our community and everyone involved



Questions?



CITY OF
MODESTO
CALIFORNIA