

ANNIE GRAM

575 Los Altos Circle | Mesquite, NV 89027

May 6, 2020

Sonny Graham
Development Services Department
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.
Mesquite, NV 89027

Dear Mr. Graham

I am in receipt of your "Notice of Violation" letter dated May 4, 2020 regarding complaints you allegedly received related to public protest caravans I organized at Sun Valley Plaza in Mesquite over the past two weekends.

In your letter you state that "Groups of people (in excess of 10) have been seen gathering in that parking lot and not observing social distancing protocols."

You go on to maintain that "This is in violation of Governor Sisolak's order banning groups of ten (10) or more people from gathering in any indoor or outdoor public areas," and asked that I "voluntarily discontinue holding these events until the Governor lifts his order."

In response...

1.) The public protest rallies were organized and advertised as caravans in which people would drive around the City of Mesquite in their own cars to express their displeasure with the governor's statewide, discriminatory and contradictory shutdown order.

Such a caravan protest does NOT violate the governor's order.

2.) At the staging area for the caravans – specifically, the privately-owned parking lot at Sun Valley Plaza – some participants have congregated before and after the caravan in a manner that does not strictly abide by the social distancing protocols outlined by the governor in Emergency Directive 007.

However, Directive 007 also includes the following...

“This provision shall not be construed to apply to the gathering of persons...providing essential services to the public.”

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States - which equally applies to the State of Nevada by way of the 14th Amendment (*“No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States”*) - guarantees “the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

As such, those citizens of the United States peaceably assembled at Sun Valley Plaza for the purpose of petitioning the government for a redress of grievances against the governor’s statewide shutdown order are providing an essential service to the public and, therefore, are not in violation of Directive 007.

If, however, your position is that exercising one’s First Amendment right to peaceably assembly and petition our government is NOT an essential service to the public, please so state and explain why and how you reached your conclusion.

Absent an explanation for why you consider peaceful protests to not be essential, I cannot in good conscience accept your determination that the individuals involved in our caravan rallies are in “violation” of Directive 007.

Yours in liberty,

Annie Black

P.S. I would also point out that there have been multiple protests organized all over the state since Easter Sunday. In fact, a massive protest rally was held in front of the governor’s mansion in Carson City last weekend.

News reports showed hundreds, if not thousands, of peaceful protestors gathering without following recommended social distancing protocols.

And yet, to the best of my knowledge, the Governor himself hasn’t issued any “Notice of Violation” letters to protest organizers or demanded that protests be stopped as “non-essential.”

Please address these contradictory enforcement actions.

*Annie Black is Republican candidate for Nevada State Assembly District 19.
You can get more information by visiting www.ElectAnnieBlack.com.*