

# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - ATTENDING A DEMONSTRATION**

Courtesy of Attorney Robert Botnick, The Botnick Law Firm, LLC  
216-245-9245 | botnicklawfirm.com

- When you are lawfully present in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including federal buildings and the police.
- You don't need a permit to march in the streets or on sidewalks, as long as marchers don't obstruct car or pedestrian traffic. If you don't have a permit, police officers can ask you to move to the side of a street or sidewalk to let others pass or for safety reasons.
- If you get stopped by police, ask if you're free to go. If they say yes, calmly walk away.
- If you get arrested, ask for a lawyer immediately and DON'T say anything.
- Don't sign anything.
- Don't agree to anything without a lawyer present.
- Demand your right to a local phone call.
- If you call a lawyer, the police are *not* allowed to listen. If you call anyone else, they are likely to listen.
- Police may not confiscate or demand to view your photographs or video without a warrant, nor may they delete data under any circumstances. You never have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. Say that you don't consent to the search. If you *do* explicitly consent, it can affect you later in court.
- Individuals must receive clear and detailed notice of a dispersal order, including how much time they have to disperse, the consequences of failing to disperse, and what clear exit route they can follow, BEFORE they may be arrested or charged with any crime.
- If you believe your rights have been violated, write down everything you remember, including the officers' badge and patrol car numbers and the agency they work for.
- Get contact information for witnesses and take photographs of any injuries.

## **If you are ARRESTED or DETAINED:**

**“I am going to remain silent;  
I do not consent to a search;  
I want a lawyer.”**

**National Lawyers Guild Jail Support Hotline: 216-505-0654 (5050 NLG)**