

Minneapolis

Every finding's bottom line, with citations — the legal analysis lives in the full reference

As of Jul 21, 2026

Research completed Jul 21, 2026

Confidence: medium



- This city is **moderately regulated** — sidewalk demonstration is lawful, but permit, noise, or buffer-zone rules apply.

✓ RECORDING CONSENT One-party	✓ OPEN RECORDING IN PUBLIC Lawful	RECORD POLICE Unrecognized	AMPLIFICATION PERMIT Conditional
DAYTIME NOISE LIMIT 10 dB(C) Leq above ambient indoors; permitted amplification: 80/90 dB(A) at 50 ft		QUIET HOURS 10pm-7am	
✓ HANDHELD SIGN RULES None	HEALTHCARE BUFFER ZONE Municipal	RESIDENTIAL PICKETING Targeted only	SIDEWALK PERMIT Never required
✓ LEAFLETING Unrestricted	ANTI-MASK LAW Yes	✓ STOP-AND-IDENTIFY No	PENDING CHANGE See below

§ Jurisdiction overview

OVERVIEW

Moderate regulation with sidewalk protections. Sidewalk speech, signs, and noncommercial handbilling generally need no permit, but amplified sound, street processions, obstruction, and targeted residential conduct are regulated.

Editor's note. The Park Board rule is a park-use policy, not the city sidewalk-parade ordinance; particular park locations and amplified-sound use can require additional approval.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System § C(D) · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 389.60(a)-(e)

§ Which law governs here

THE CITY / COUNTY / STATE HIERARCHY

City, Park Board, and state law govern. City ordinances govern city sidewalks, Park Board rules govern park property, and Minnesota statutes govern statewide criminal and civil-law issues.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 389.15 · Minn. Stat. § 116.07, subd. 2(c)

COUNTY LAW: HENNEPIN COUNTY

County code does not govern these activities. No Hennepin County ordinance was verified as regulating demonstrations, parades, or sidewalk advocacy inside Minneapolis.

Editor's note. The county's ordinance list was not a comprehensive legal determination of every county program. Check any county-specific subject-area rule before relying on this conclusion outside public advocacy and demonstration regulation.

Verify before publication · medium confidence · Hennepin County Ordinances

THE FIRST AMENDMENT BASELINE

Traditional public forums; recording right unresolved. Sidewalk speech receives strong First Amendment protection, but the Eighth Circuit has not expressly recognized a First Amendment right to record police in public.

Editor's note. This finding concerns controlling Eighth Circuit recognition. It does not mean that police may seize cameras, arrest without probable cause, or punish verbal criticism.

Verified at source · high confidence · Robbins v. City of Des Moines, 984 F.3d 673 (8th Cir. 2021) · Molina v. City of St. Louis, 59 F.4th 334 (8th Cir. 2023)

§ Signage

HANDHELD SIGNS

No verified handheld-sign restriction. No current Minneapolis provision was verified that imposes a permit, size, number, or material limit on a person carrying a handheld advocacy sign on a sidewalk.

Editor's note. Check the live city code before using unusually large displays or a display that narrows pedestrian passage.

Verify before publication · high confidence · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 403.50

STICKS, POLES & SIGN MATERIALS

No verified sidewalk pole restriction. No current generally applicable Minneapolis rule restricting the material or dimensions of a handheld sign support on a sidewalk was verified.

Editor's note. This absence conclusion does not address site-specific event permit conditions or weapons laws.

Verify before publication · medium confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System § C(vi)

STATIONARY & ATTACHED DISPLAYS

Attaching or leaving displays is restricted. Personally held signs are distinct from structures or unattended objects; attaching or erecting a display on public property can require permission or create obstruction exposure.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.74(2)

GRAPHIC IMAGERY

No graphic-imagery rule verified. No Minneapolis ordinance restricting graphic or disturbing imagery on handheld advocacy signs was verified.

Editor's note. This is an absence finding based on the demonstration-related chapters reviewed, not a ruling on every possible state obscenity or threat law.

No law on this point · medium confidence · Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, current code contents

§ Sound & amplification

AMPLIFIED SOUND

Permit generally required above 10 watts. Outdoor amplification generally requires a permit, but equipment of ten watts or less, such as a bullhorn, is exempt from that permit requirement from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Editor's note. The ten-watt exemption addresses the city amplified-sound permit requirement; it does not authorize obstruction, trespass, or sound that violates another applicable law.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105(c)(10)

NOISE LIMITS

Ambient-relative standards plus permit limits. Current Chapter 389 uses 10 dB(C) Leq above ambient indoors by day and 5 dB(C) Leq at night, incorporates state outdoor limits, and sets separate 80/90 dB(A) permit limits for amplification.

Editor's note. The distance-based plainly-audible conditions in § 389.105 also apply to amplified-sound permits and unpermitted amplification. The applicable limit depends on whether the conduct is being evaluated under the general noise provision or an amplification permit condition.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 389.60(a)-(e) · Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105(c)(3)-(6)

UNAMPLIFIED VOICE

Voice may still be regulated case by case. Unamplified speech is not subject to the amplified-sound permit trigger, but it can still implicate general noise, disorderly-conduct, or obstruction law in particular circumstances.

Editor's note. The noise chapter's speech safeguard does not create a categorical exemption from all general criminal laws.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 389.60(e)

SENSITIVE LOCATIONS

No hospital-specific noise standard verified. No separate city or state hospital or school decibel rule was verified; Sunday amplified-sound permits have a 500-foot residential-or-religious-institution restriction after 9 p.m.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105(c)(12)

§ Recording & photography

THE STATE CONSENT LAW

One-party consent state. Minnesota permits a private person to record a communication when the recorder is a party or one party has consented, absent a criminal or tortious purpose.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 626A.02, subd. 2(d)

RECORDING PEOPLE IN PUBLIC

Open public recording generally lawful. Open photography and video recording in public are generally lawful, subject to laws against harassment, stalking, voyeurism, threats, and interference.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.749, subd. 7

RECORDING POLICE

First Amendment right not expressly recognized. The Eighth Circuit has not expressly recognized a First Amendment right to record police in public, although recording alone is not a Minnesota crime and police conduct remains subject to other constitutional limits.

Editor’s note. The absence of an express Eighth Circuit recognition is not a conclusion that recording police is unprotected in every factual setting.

Verified at source · high confidence · Molina v. City of St. Louis, 59 F.4th 334 (8th Cir. 2023) · Robbins v. City of Des Moines, 984 F.3d 673 (8th Cir. 2021)

PUBLISHING FOOTAGE

Public-event publication generally protected. Publication of lawfully obtained public-event footage generally receives First Amendment protection, while privacy and defamation rules remain fact dependent.

Editor’s note. The specific civil exposure for a proposed publication depends on the footage, captions, subjects, context, and use.

Verify before publication · medium confidence · Minn. Stat. § 626A.02

DRONES

Federal flight rules remain primary. Drone operations over gatherings are principally governed by federal aviation rules, while Park Board property rules can restrict takeoff, landing, or event equipment.

Editor’s note. Check current FAA rules and the property owner’s rules before launching or landing.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System § C(ix)

§ Assembly & permits

WHEN A PERMIT IS REQUIRED

Street processions and amplification regulated. Street or alley parades and regulated amplification require permits, while stationary sidewalk expression ordinarily does not have a numeric permit threshold.

Editor’s note. The exact current street-parade application timing and wording should be confirmed in the live Chapter 447 text before planning a street march.

Verify before publication · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System definition of “Special Event”

FEES, INSURANCE & INDEMNIFICATION

Park permits may require costs or insurance. Park-event permits may require a security deposit, insurance naming the Park Board, or reimbursement for damage depending on size, venue, and time.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System § 2(C)

SPONTANEOUS & SMALL GROUPS

Small Park Board free-speech groups exempt. The Park Board expressly exempts free-speech groups of fewer than 50 participants from its special-event permit requirement, and no separate sidewalk-assembly permit threshold was verified.

Editor’s note. The under-50 exception is a Park Board policy; it does not remove separate requirements for sound equipment, street occupation, or restricted park areas.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System §§ C(D), 1

DENIAL & APPEAL

Park denials require written reasons. The Park Board must issue a written permit approval or denial and a denial must state grounds and, where feasible, identify ways to cure defects or obtain a permit.

Editor’s note. Confirm current city procedures separately for a Chapter 447 parade or Chapter 389 sound permit.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System § 3(A)-(C)

§ Location rules

SIDEWALKS & STREETS

Obstruction of public ways prohibited. Intentionally obstructing or rendering a sidewalk, street, or other public right-of-way dangerous for passage is misdemeanor public nuisance under Minnesota law.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.74(2)

PARKS & PLAZAS

Park speech exception below 50. Park Board public-forum policy allows free-speech groups of fewer than 50 participants without a special-event permit, while separate rules can regulate structures, aviation equipment, and amplified sound.

Editor's note. Verify the current Park Board code and any site-specific closure or permit condition before using a particular park location.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System, Classification of Park Property

HEALTHCARE BUFFER ZONES

No fixed buffer; access-obstruction rule. Chapter 405 contains no fixed-distance clinic buffer zone; it prohibits physical disruption of access and driveway obstruction but expressly excepts constitutionally protected conduct.

Editor's note. The exception preserves protected conduct but is not a blanket permission to enter private property, obstruct a driveway, threaten, or physically interfere with access.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis ordinance amending Code §§ 405.20 and 405.30

RESIDENTIAL PICKETING

Targeted residential conduct can be restrained. Minnesota permits civil harassment restraining orders for targeted residential picketing directed at one residence on more than one occasion, although there is no verified general Minneapolis criminal ban.

Editor's note. This is a civil restraining-order mechanism; it does not establish a general criminal prohibition against every residential demonstration.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.748, subds. 1(a)(2), 1(c), 2(a)

SCHOOLS & OTHER SENSITIVE SITES

No school-specific protest rule verified. No city or state school-session, courthouse-sidewalk, or transit-stop demonstration restriction was verified in the sources reviewed.

Editor's note. Facility owners, school districts, courts, and transit agencies may impose rules on their own property.

No law on this point · medium confidence · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances ch. 389

§ Person-to-person contact

LEAFLETING

Noncommercial sidewalk handbilling exempt. Minneapolis expressly exempts noncommercial handbill distribution by a person on foot on public sidewalks and in public parks from Chapter 403.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances § 403.50

APPROACHING PEOPLE

No fixed bubble zone verified. No fixed-distance Minneapolis bubble zone was verified; approaching people to speak or offer literature is generally lawful unless conduct becomes harassment, threats, or obstruction.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.749, subd. 2(b)

HARASSMENT & DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Hensel invalidated assembly-disturbance clause. The lawful-assembly disturbance clause in Minnesota's disorderly-conduct law is unconstitutional, while other disorderly-conduct and harassment provisions remain enforceable within constitutional limits.

Editor's note. Do not treat § 609.72, subd. 1(2), as an enforceable element of disorderly conduct.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.72 and Revisor note citing State v. Hensel

ANONYMITY & MASKS

Anti-mask law has listed exceptions. Minnesota makes public identity concealment by robe, mask, or disguise a misdemeanor unless it is based on religion or incidental to amusement, entertainment, weather protection, or medical treatment.

Editor’s note. Whether a particular face covering qualifies as medical treatment or weather protection can be fact dependent.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.735

§ Police interaction

IDENTIFICATION

No general duty to identify. Minnesota criminalizes giving false identifying information to police with intent to obstruct, but the statute does not impose a general duty to state one’s name.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.506, subd. 1

DISPERSAL ORDERS

Refusal at unlawful assembly is misdemeanor. Remaining at an unlawful assembly after a law-enforcement direction to leave is a misdemeanor, but the underlying assembly must satisfy Minnesota’s unlawful-assembly definition.

Editor’s note. The safest immediate response to a dispersal order is fact dependent; challenging an allegedly unlawful order normally occurs through legal process rather than physical resistance.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.715 · Minn. Stat. § 609.705

COMMON CHARGES & OUTCOMES

Obstruction, assembly, disorderly charges possible. Likely state-law exposure for demonstrators includes public-way obstruction, unlawful assembly, refusal to leave an unlawful assembly, and constitutionally limited disorderly-conduct charges.

Editor’s note. This is a typical misdemeanor-level summary, not a statement that every demonstration-related offense is a misdemeanor.

Verified at source · high confidence · Minn. Stat. § 609.03(3)

§ Law-in-effect vs. law-on-the-books

ENFORCEMENT REALITY

Written rules and reform agreement matter. Minneapolis remains subject to a court-enforceable state settlement framework while city and state offenses remain available for conduct that obstructs, threatens, or unlawfully disrupts.

Editor’s note. Review current MPD policies and the current status of court monitoring before relying on operational expectations for a large event.

Verified at source · medium confidence · City of Minneapolis, Court-enforceable settlement agreement

☒ Penalties a demonstrator could face

OFFENSE	LEVEL	PENALTY
Public nuisance by obstruction of a public right-of-way — Minn. Stat. § 609.74(2)	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both if no different punishment applies
Unlawful assembly — Minn. Stat. § 609.705	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both
Presence at unlawful assembly after direction to leave — Minn. Stat. § 609.715	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both
Disorderly conduct, except invalid § 609.72, subd. 1(2) clause — Minn. Stat. § 609.72	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both
Concealing identity in public without an exception — Minn. Stat. § 609.735	Misdemeanor	Up to 90 days jail, \$1,000 fine, or both

Recent changes

- May 2026** SF 3699, an omnibus immigration-enforcement and civil-remedies bill that included identity-concealment amendments, passed the Senate as amended but shows no House action or final enactment; it is dead by adjournment. HF 5149 proposed related identity-concealment amendments but its House motion to suspend rules failed on May 17, 2026.
- Mar 2026** SF 4413 and SF 4582 proposed additional modifications to the public identity-concealment statute and law-enforcement exceptions. Their official pages show introduction and committee referral only; both are dead by adjournment.
- Feb 2026** HF 3412 and SF 3590 proposed amendments to Minnesota's identity-concealment statute, including an airborne-toxin exception and specified law-enforcement exceptions. Neither became law before adjournment of the 94th Legislature.
- Apr 2025** SF 3208, which proposed a reimbursement program for agencies responding to protests and demonstrations at the Capitol complex and governor's residence, was introduced and referred but did not become law before the 94th Legislature ended.
- Mar 2025** HF 2809, proposing a crime of residential protesting, and SF 3359, independently proposing a residential-protesting crime, were introduced and referred but show no enactment; both are dead by adjournment of the 94th Legislature.
- Feb 2025** SF 1501, proposed increased penalties for obstructing traffic access to a trunk highway or airport, was introduced and referred without further legislative action shown on its bill page; it is dead by adjournment of the 94th Legislature.
- Jan 2025** SF 708 was introduced to bar state loans, grants, and assistance for persons convicted of offenses related to protests, demonstrations, rallies, civil unrest, or marches. It received only referral action on its official bill page and is dead by the adjournment of the 94th Legislature.
- Dec 2024** Minneapolis amended its reproductive-healthcare-facility access and driveway provisions to add an exception for persons or groups engaged in conduct protected by the United States Constitution, Minnesota Constitution, or federal or Minnesota law.

Pending changes to watch

Minnesota Department of Human Rights–City of Minneapolis court-enforceable settlement agreement

Litigation · Ongoing court-enforceable settlement framework; the city provides independent-evaluator reports and continuing policy-feedback materials.

Continuing monitoring and policy development may affect Minneapolis police practices relevant to demonstrations and crowd management.

Key authorities

Minneapolis Noise Ordinance Minneapolis, Minn., Code of Ordinances ch. 389

Establishes general ambient-relative noise standards, state-rule incorporation, and express speech and religious-exercise safeguards.

Outdoor amplified sound amendment Minneapolis Ordinance No. 2019-062, amending § 389.105

Sets permit tiers, 80/90 dB(A) limits, plainly-audible conditions, and the ten-watt bullhorn exemption.

Reproductive healthcare facilities access amendment Minneapolis Code §§ 405.20, 405.30

Prohibits physical access disruption and driveway obstruction while expressly excepting protected conduct.

MPRB park-use policy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Policies and Guidelines Governing the Use of the Park System (May 5, 2021)

Exempts under-50 free-speech groups from special-event permits and regulates park structures, equipment, and public-forum areas.

Minnesota one-party consent statute Minn. Stat. § 626A.02

Permits private-party interception where the recorder is a party or one party consents, subject to the criminal-or-tortious-purpose limitation.

Minnesota targeted residential picketing rule Minn. Stat. § 609.748

Defines targeted residential picketing as harassment for civil restraining-order purposes.

Minnesota harassment and stalking statute Minn. Stat. § 609.749

Sets criminal harassment elements and expressly preserves protected peaceful handbilling and picketing from its following-or-monitoring clause.

Minnesota disorderly conduct statute Minn. Stat. § 609.72

Defines disorderly conduct while carrying a Revisor note that the lawful-assembly disturbance clause is unconstitutional under Hensel.

Minnesota obstruction statute Minn. Stat. § 609.74

Makes intentional obstruction or dangerous interference with a public right-of-way a misdemeanor.

Minnesota identity-concealment statute Minn. Stat. § 609.735

Makes public identity concealment a misdemeanor subject to religion, entertainment, weather, and medical-treatment exceptions.

Robbins v. City of Des Moines 984 F.3d 673 (8th Cir. 2021)

Does not expressly recognize a First Amendment right to record police and holds the asserted right was not clearly established on its facts.

Molina v. City of St. Louis 59 F.4th 334 (8th Cir. 2023)

Confirms that observation and recording of police-citizen interactions were not a clearly established First Amendment right in the case's relevant period.

MDHR–Minneapolis court-enforceable settlement agreement City of Minneapolis court-enforceable settlement agreement

Provides the continuing state settlement and independent-evaluator framework relevant to Minneapolis police policy.

§ Research notes

Overall confidence: Medium. This adjudicated survey is current through July 21, 2026. The most important practical distinctions are between sidewalk use and street occupation, unamplified speech and outdoor amplification, and ordinary neighborhood advocacy versus repeated conduct targeted solely at a particular residence. Check the live city code, Park Board rules, current police policies, and event-specific permit conditions before relying on this document for a planned event.

Unresolved points. The live Municode pages for Chapters 403, 405, and 447 returned chapter navigation rather than all operative section text in this run. The Chapter 405 amendment PDF and the noise chapter were independently opened, but exact current parade-section wording should be checked before a street march. — No official source opened in this run established the exact date on which the 94th Legislature adjourned sine die. The official Senate page states that the Senate is adjourned until January 12, 2027, so unpassed 94th-Legislature bills are treated as dead by adjournment, but the specific adjournment date is left unresolved. — No specific current MPD crowd-management policy provision was verified in this adjudication. Check the city policy portal and current settlement-monitoring material before a large demonstration.

Generated from the structured demonstration-law deep-research record for Minneapolis, Minnesota (research completed 2026-07-21). This digest carries each finding's bottom line and citations only — the quoted ordinance text and legal analysis behind every conclusion are in the full reference PDF and the full Minneapolis survey. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer and should not be used as legal advice.