

Monitoring of April 2009 IMF/World Bank Protest

(Last Updated – February 2012)

Recommendation	Status
<p>MPD should continue to offer training to its Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) and, as appropriate, to other officers that emphasizes compliance with the First Amendment Assemblies Act. In the course of its training, MPD should review the incident that unfolded April 25, 2009, and discuss how the outcome could have been better. In particular, the training should focus on provisions of the First Amendment Assemblies Act that address: giving demonstrators the opportunity to comply voluntarily with time, place, and manner restrictions; giving demonstrators reasonable and adequate time to disperse; giving demonstrators a clear and safe route for dispersal; limiting use of police lines; and prohibiting use of chemical irritants except in rare circumstances.</p>	<p>Adopted. MPD stated in PCB’s 2009 annual report that all CDU personnel receive training annually, which includes training in the First Amendment Assembly Act. MPD now reports that the Department continues to support this recommendation, that the annual training continues, and that each demonstration is reviewed and deficiencies are addressed.</p>
<p>The District, through concerted effort by the Mayor, D.C. Council, and MPD Chief of Police, should seek to obtain voluntary compliance with the First Amendment Assemblies Act by those federal law enforcement agencies that routinely assist MPD with First Amendment demonstrations on District-controlled public space. The District may wish to enter voluntary Memoranda of Agreement with these agencies, pursuant to which MPD would provide training and guidance on the operation and application of the First Amendment Assemblies Act in exchange for a voluntary commitment from the cooperating agencies to comply with the terms of the Act when assisting MPD with First Amendment demonstrations.</p>	<p>Adopted. MPD states that in any situation where the Department obtains assistance of outside law enforcement agencies for demonstration-related duties, MPD must brief the outside agency’s commanders on the requirements of MPD’s Standard Operative Procedures for Handling First Amendment Assemblies and Mass Demonstrations.</p>