



Boise Police Department

Michael F. Masterson
Police Chief

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Members of Occupy Boise:

Over the last three months representatives from the Boise Police Department and Idaho State Police, have met with your representatives in the spirit of cooperation to support your First Amendment rights and provide safety and security for all. We have appreciated the efforts of the majority of those involved in your movement toward peaceful, safe, and respectful demonstrations. Occupy Boise members have conducted themselves in a civically responsible (law abiding) and peaceful manner. We have found our on-going dialogue to be helpful, constructive and respectful. We really appreciate the civility shown by nearly all those associated with your movement here in Boise. Thank you.

As you are aware, the State of Idaho may very soon enact legislation that prohibits camping on state property. This law may become effective as soon as the Governor signs it. We understand that this may happen as early as this week. Although this new law is outside the jurisdiction of the City of Boise, we anticipate that it may ultimately impact our future relationship.

We are writing to seek your assistance, cooperation and leadership in demonstrating that Occupy Boise is different- and truly seeks to create positive change without any of the violence which has occurred around the country. We believe this community faces a unique opportunity and a defining moment. If Occupy Boise chooses voluntary compliance with the new law, cleans up the court house property, and leaves prior to any enforcement action being taken you will be showing true leadership. As you are aware, many of the evictions of Occupy camps across the nation have ended negatively. It is our hope that Occupy Boise can highlight at least one Occupy camp that took a leadership role toward voluntarily dismantling their site and cleaned up their camp themselves. We believe this would bring a positive light to your efforts and continue to show the true spirit of your members and the intentions of your organization. The real legacy of Occupy can be about, not merely tents, but also the civil, ongoing and productive dialogue with city officials that is not seen in other communities

We look forward to working cooperatively with Occupy Boise in the future. Please say thank you to the members of your movement for their past positive actions and reiterating our desire to maintain a spirit of cooperation and respect in our future dealings. May our continued peaceful, safe, organized, and respectful collaboration demonstrate to the nation the quality of life we all appreciate in the State of Idaho and in making Boise the most livable city in the country.

Michael F. Masterson, Chief of Police
Boise Police Department

G. Jerry Russell, Colonel
Idaho State Police