

## **WHERE TO DONATE**

**RECLAIM THE BLOCK**

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BAIL OUT**

**PROJECT SAFE PHILLY**

**EMERGENCY RELEASE FUND**

**THE AUDRE LORDE PROJECT**

**THE BLACK VISIONS COLLECTIVE  
MOVEMENT**

**FREE THEM ALL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

**BLACK IMMIGRANT COLLECTIVE**

**AND  
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES**

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat  
to justice everywhere."  
-MLK Jr**



# **BLACK**

# **LIVES**

# **MATTER**

Created by  
The Bergenfield POC Alumni  
Association



@bergenfieldpocalumni

# **RIGHT TO PROTEST**

**A BRIEF GUIDE  
TO UNDERSTANDING  
YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHILE PROTESTING



1. The right to protest is a fundamental human right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the First Amendment.
2. Your rights are strongest in what are known as “traditional public forums,” such as streets, sidewalks, and parks.
3. The right to protest includes the right to record, including recording police doing their jobs.
4. The police can order people to stop interfering with legitimate police operations, but video recording from a safe distance is not interfering.
5. Images and video images are always fully protected by the First Amendment.
6. If police issue a dispersal order, they must provide a reasonable opportunity to comply, including sufficient time and a clear, unobstructed exit path.

# WHAT TO DO IF STOPPED WHILE PROTESTING



1. Stay calm. Make sure to keep your hands visible. Don’t argue, resist, or obstruct the police, even if you believe they are violating your rights. Point out that you are not disrupting anyone else’s activity and that the First Amendment protects your actions.
2. Police cannot detain you without reasonable suspicion that you have or are about to commit a crime or are in the process of doing so.
3. If you get stopped, ask if you are free to go. If the police say yes, calmly walk away.
4. If you get stopped, police cannot take or confiscate any videos or photos without a warrant.
5. Police cannot confiscate or demand to view your photographs or video without a warrant, and cannot delete data from your device under any circumstances.

6. You never have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings.

7. If you get arrested, don’t say anything. Ask for a lawyer immediately. Do not sign anything and do not agree to anything without an attorney present.
8. If you get arrested, demand your right to a local phone call. If you call a lawyer for legal advice, law enforcement is not allowed to listen.

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED



1. When you can, write down everything you remember, including the officers’ badge and patrol car numbers and the agency they work for.
2. Get contact information for witnesses.
3. Take photographs of any injuries.
4. Once you have all of this information, you can file a written complaint or contact an attorney to pursue civil action.