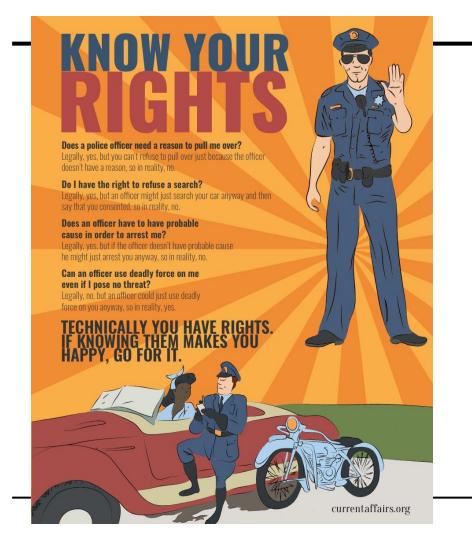
Know Your Rights: Demonstrations & Police Encounters

Prepared by Eric M. Fink
Elon Law School, Greensboro, North Carolina

Obligatory Disclaimer

This is a general overview of issues that may arise in political demonstrations and police encounters. The information presented is not offered or intended as legal advice.

Demonstrations: 1st Amendment



Prohibits the government from infringing on certain rights, including:

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Peaceable Assembly

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

While the 1st Amendment Protects against restraint by federal, state, and local government actors:

- Legislative restraints
- Judicial restraints

Government may not restrict or punish speech/assembly based on content or viewpoint

Government may regulate the *time*, *place*, & *manner* of speech/assembly.

Examples:

- Permits for use of certain public places
- Noise ordinances & regulations of sound equipment,
- Restrictions on posting signs or flyers
- Prohibitions against blocking pedestrian or vehicular traffic