

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF MODERATOR DAVIS

Good afternoon,

To make sure you are safe and know your rights, I am including an email sent to me from ACLU. These may be helpful tips to keep you safe. Praying for safety for clergy who are participating in the protest throughout our city.

**As you come out to protest, here's what our video notes to keep in mind:**

1. The right to protest is a fundamental human right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the First Amendment.
2. If you get stopped, ask if you are free to go. If the police say yes, calmly walk away.
3. You have the right to record. 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. If you get stopped, police cannot take or confiscate any videos or photos without a warrant.
6. If you are videotaping, keep in mind in some states, the audio is treated differently than the images. But images and video images are always fully protected by the First Amendment.
7. The police's main job in a protest is to protect your right to protest and to de-escalate any threat of violence.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Police cannot delete data from your device under any circumstances.

We understand that even with the legal protections laid out above, protesting has real risks – especially for Black and Brown people. We're also still in the midst of a global pandemic and know that your health and the health of others may take priority.

Whether you choose to physically protest this week or not, **you can still ensure others are as informed and prepared as possible by**

And no matter what – remember your rights and stay safe.

Thank you,

**The ACLU Team**

P.S. Over this past weekend alone, we've seen a number of potentially unlawful actions on the part of law enforcement and other government entities during these protests – **targeting journalists and endangering all of our free speech rights**. Make no mistake: The ACLU will not allow these attacks on reporters to go unanswered. We'll be keeping you updated in our efforts moving forward – and in the meantime, thank you for staying informed.

***Rev. Glencie Rhedrick, M.S. M.DIV., BCC  
Co-Chair, Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice  
Chair, Social Justice for United Missionary Baptist Association  
Former President Mecklenburg Ministries  
[RevG4MecMin@gmail.com](mailto:RevG4MecMin@gmail.com)***



***<http://www.charlotteclergycoalition.org>***



***[www.umbacharlotte.org](http://www.umbacharlotte.org)***

***[www.meckmin.org](http://www.meckmin.org)***

***980-202-9866***