

ASSEMBLE FOR RIGHTS NYC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS MEET TO
DENOUNCE NYPD POWER GRAB IN CHANGES TO PARADE PERMIT LAWS;
PEOPLE'S PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULED AUG 17 AT 7PM

August 15, New York, NY: Under the guise of protecting public safety, the New York City Police Department has announced plans to expand its control over parade and protest activity by labeling many common street and sidewalk uses as a "parade." If put into effect, these new rules would greatly suppress the right to assembly and would expose peaceful protestors, as well as regular pedestrians, to arrest for simply crossing the street against the light.

In response, at **7pm on Thursday August 17th at St. Mark's Church located at East 10 Street at Second Avenue**, City Council members including Rosie Mendez and Alan Gerson will be joined by civil liberties attorneys Norman Siegel and Bruce Bentley and community representatives including NYC Housing Works Advocate Terri Smith-Caronia to discuss the proposed changes and how to defend the civil liberties of New Yorkers from this attempt by the NYPD to rewrite the law. The event, called the "**People's Public Forum**" is free and open to the public, and is being organized by The Assemble for Rights NYC coalition.

"The solution is for Mayor Michael Bloomberg or the City Council to reject the current proposal and to move permit responsibility out of the Police Department," state New York Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Donna Lieberman and Associate Legal Director Christopher Dunn in the *New York Times*. Civil Rights Attorney Norman Siegel recently said "It's antithetical to the principles and values of the right to protest that New York is associated with."

Assemble for Rights NYC Coalition includes the National Lawyers Guild, the New York City Bike Coalition, and United for Peace and Justice.

A group bicycle ride [organized by????] leading directly to the Forum will leave from the perimeter [good wording?] of Union Square at 6:00 p.m.

The People's Public Forum is being held one week before the NYPD holds its own hearing on the proposed rule changes at 1 Police Plaza, August 23, at 6:00 p.m.

Under the NYPD's proposed rule changes: * Any group of two or more cyclists or pedestrians traveling down a public street, who violate any traffic law, rule or regulation can be arrested for parading without a permit. * Any group of 20 or more cyclists (following all traffic regulations) must obtain a permit and approved route from the NYPD or would be subject to arrest * Every group of 35 or more pedestrians must obtain a permit and approved route from the NYPD or would be subject to arrest ,

**Additional info: call the Time's Up! Ride line 212-802-8222
see: assembleforrightsnyc.blogspot.com/**

