



City of Bellevue

Targeted Residential Protest

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May 12, 2026



Action

Consider adopting ordinance no. 6917 defining criminal conduct of targeted residential protest

AGENDA



Objectives of New Law



Legal Context



Code Development



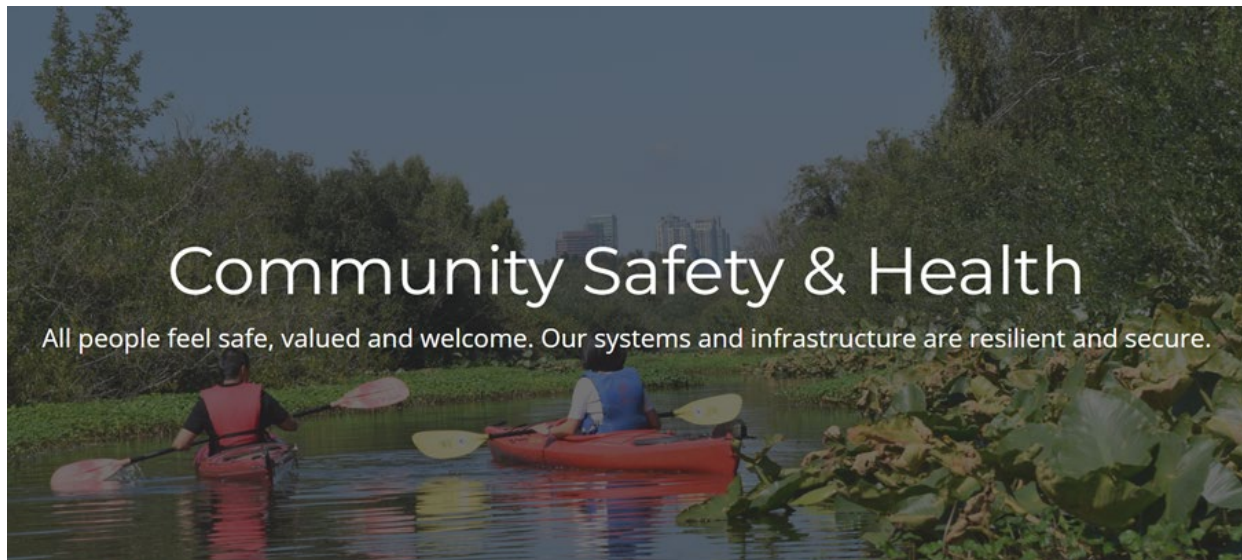
Components in New BCC 10.06.130



Additional Information

Objectives of New Law

- Respond to occurrences of targeted protests
- Mitigate impacts to “captive audience” in their homes
- Balance and reconcile the rights of protesters to express their views, with the rights of residents to enjoy privacy and tranquility



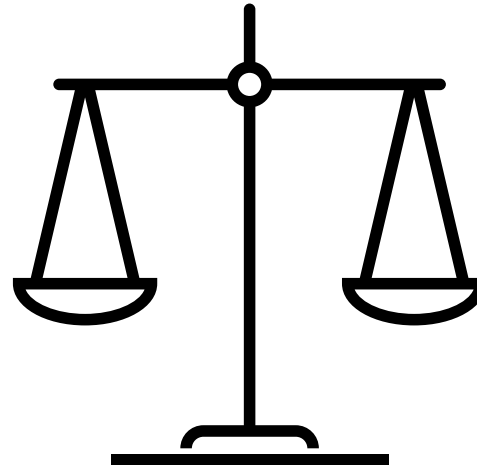
Legal Context

First Amendment

- Protects the right of individuals to peacefully communicate and express their ideas and opinions
- Fundamental to our democracy and values

Privacy and Tranquility

- Protects the right of residents to enjoy privacy and tranquility in the home
- This right is a government interest of the highest order



Code Development

- Balances and reconciles two fundamental rights
- Relies on case law: *Frisby v. Schultz* (US Supreme Court)
 - People have the right to express their views and peacefully protest in public forums (such as streets and parks)
 - Any regulation that infringes on speech within public forums must serve a compelling government interest and be narrowly tailored
 - Protection of privacy and tranquility in the home—including from offensive or unwanted speech—is a government interest in the highest order
 - A ban on targeted protest is narrow when it eliminates no more than the offensive speech focused on a captive home audience (does not ban all residential protest)
 - **Ordinance that is narrow and content-neutral banning targeted residential protest is lawful**
- Looks at similar ordinances from across the country

Components in BCC 10.06.130

Element	Description
Protest	Protest, demonstration or picketing activity, with or without signs, and with or without making audible or amplified noise
Targeted	Posting of persons, focused course, or route, in front of, around, or directly adjacent to the residence
Number of Persons	Four or more
Residence	Permanent building being used for non-transient residential use
Location	Residential land use districts
Type of crime	Gross misdemeanor: up to 364 days in jail and \$5,000 fine

Additional Information

Component	Rationale
Any protest	Addresses actual impacts of the activity on the captive audience
In front of, around, or directly next to the residence (targeted)	Narrowly bans protest activity impacting the captive audience
Group size (4 people)	Related to actual impacts of group activity; aligns with other group criminal activities for criminal mischief and failure to disperse
Permanent residence in residential districts	Related to impacts for captive audience in the home
Gross misdemeanor	Most sub-felony crimes; like other crimes for interfering with government operations or against a particular person; 2-yr statute of limitation for longer investigations



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