



[Legal Local Street Corner Demonstrations: Take the Message to the People Personally](#)

By MECAWI's Dr. Austin Murphy

July 15, 2004 - Small, local street corner demonstrations are as invigorating for the participants as for those who drive by. By having it in your own community, it brings the message home in a personal way, and you can customize it any way you wish, incorporating issues of maximum relevance to your area (including local, national, and international ones not related to Bush's fascism).

And, best of all, it doesn't take much time (and costs nothing).

Just pick a public sidewalk on a road with a lot of traffic at some time in the day, and stand there with a sign. It can be one person, or a family, or a whole group of people (family demos are especially great since they bring the family together for a common cause). There is no requirement to get a permit to demonstrate on a public sidewalk as long as you are not blocking traffic and as long as you are not violating any anti-loitering laws, etc. You can call your local government and find out if you have to keep moving/walking during the demonstration, some actually prefer to march or even *dance* while holding a sign!

For times between major military actions in Bush's endless imperialist wars, one useful sign to start is:

More Green Pay, Less Bush War!

However, sometimes you might get an obscene gesture or profane remarks or insults, in which case it's useful to have an alternative sign (perhaps on the back of the sign saying "More Beer; Less Bombs" or "Vote Against Bush's Endless Wars" sign), or, one of my favorites, a sign saying:

Warmongers Need Lobotomies!

That tends to silence the fascists rather well (I've never had an obscene gesture or profane remark issued while holding it), and lots of folks like it. The sign can be made from an old cardboard box with a magic marker (doubling the letters is useful to make sure it can be seen from a long distance), or you can use an existing sign like "No War".

Other good signs are "[Stop Terrorism: Impeach Bush](#)", or "[Bring The Troops Home: Deport Bush](#)". By all means, however, use whatever signs you want or think up.

You can do it at your convenience whenever and wherever you want (like even after coffee or dinner at McDonald's on a major road). Even just 15 minutes a week or month is useful, and once you try it out and get the honks and waves, you may find it hard to leave! Tell others and you might be able to get even more to come out (although that's not necessary-- one person or group doing it on Monday in one area and another doing it on Tuesday in the same or another area is also effective and especially convenient if you have different schedules and live far apart). If you have more than one person, it's a great time to chitchat, or to plot strategy.

It could also be useful to notify the local press of what you are doing (and/or notify me, as the press has indicated an interest in such things). The most important thing, though, is that you bring the demonstrations to your community so everybody sees them. Sometimes they grow over time, especially if they are promoted, but that is far from necessary to be effective (one person alone on a major road can influence thousands in just an hour).

It might be useful to bring a cellular phone in case of threats from warmongers "inspired" by Bush's terrorist actions. Do report such threats (or any obscenities) to the local police or government, and demand prosecution and perhaps a resolution condemning violence, terrorism, and other obscene acts (and if no action is taken by some hawkish local Republican government that supports domestic as well as international terrorism, consider organizing a recall).

Please forward this to anyone you like and don't hesitate to ask me questions.

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