

Street Preaching

By: David A. Sargent



Psalms 19:2-5, “Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.”

The very heavens preach to mankind; but because they don't listen God calls MEN to preach:

Isaiah 6:8, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

Old and New Testament men are called to PREACH:

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”

2 Timothy 4:2, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

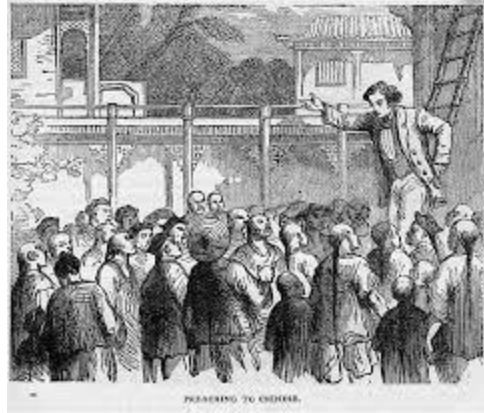
The Spirit and the Bride PREACH:

Revelation 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Street Preaching:

John the Baptist was a WILDERNESS PREACHER!

Isaiah 40:3, “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” and Matthew 3:3, “For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” and Mark 1:3, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” And Luke 3:4, “As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” And John 1:23, “He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”



Preparation for Preaching: LISTEN TO GOD’S VOICE IN THE BIBLE:



Isaiah 40:6-8, “The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

Jesus Christ was a STREET PREACHER: He preached Matthew 12:17-21 in the synagogue: Prophecy about lifting up his voice in the street has to do with the trial and crucifixion: Isaiah 53:7, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” So we read:

Matthew 12:17-21, “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved,

in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.”

Jesus Christ DID preach in OPEN AIR:

Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”



HOUSE TOP PREACHING:

Matthew 10:27, “What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.”

IN THE CITIES PREACHING:

Matthew 11:1, “And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.”

RULES for STREET PREACHING:

A CALLING:

Romans 10:11-18, “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,



and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their

words unto the ends of the world.”

STICK TO PREACHING:

2 Timothy 4:2, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

PREACH THE CROSS OF CHRIST REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY SAY:

1 Corinthians 1:18, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

PREACH THE WORD KEEP IT SIMPLE:

1 Corinthians 1:21, “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

PREACH IN DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT AND OF POWER:

1 Corinthians 2:4, “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:”

ALWAYS GO BY TWOS:

Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:16, “But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”



Mark 6:7, “And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;”

Luke 10:1, “After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.”

John 8:17, “It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.”

FINALLY; DO IT RIGHT: GET PERMISSION FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COME TO AN AGREEMENT OF TERMS IF NEEDED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO PREACHING. DO NOT GO WHERE IT IS NOT DECENT OR UNRULY; AS THESE PLACES WILL CAUSE THINGS NOT TO BE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER:



1 Corinthians 14:40, “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

From:



LEGALITY

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."
1 Peter 2:13-14

There must be some way to reconcile the seemingly contradictory verses given above. And, yea, there is. When man's laws cross God's laws, God's laws are higher. At the top of the chain of command is the Lord — just like you have a lower and higher court system in America.

Now, at the very start of this chapter, I want to lay out some guidelines for street preaching that will help keep you out of jail. This chapter is written with this intent. Any idiot can go to jail; any drunk can be belligerent and obnoxious enough to go to jail. The Lord did not call me to defend the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution; He called me to preach the gospel. However, I am a man and I am an American, and I do have some rights and liberties which I intend to exercise for the glory of my Saviour.

1. Stay away from private property. I know some have fought and bled for the right to preach in privately-owned malls, etc., but I am telling you how to preach and stay out of jail.
2. Do not use a public address system. There may be a very few exceptions to this, but make sure you know what you're doing. If you preach correctly, there really is no need. Besides, no preacher before 1920 had this luxury.
3. Avoid preaching at night. Again, there may be exceptions, and I have violated this rule several times in order to accomplish a particular goal, but remember I am trying to tell you how to stay out of jail.

Now, if you observe these rules and preach in broad daylight, with no P.A. system, standing on public property, you have the lowest risk of going to jail — or even of having an encounter with the police.

Constitution

We, as American citizens, have a Constitutional right of freedom of speech as well as freedom of practicing our religion. Anyone can obtain a copy of the Constitution from a local library, courthouse, bookstore, etc. The problem here is that municipalities sometimes have laws that either infringe upon or inhibit the exercise of this right. In these cases, your copy of the Constitution has very little effect on the officer of the law who is about to throw you in the slammer for one or more of the following:

- a. disturbing the peace
- b. loitering
- c. disorderly conduct; or,
- d. failure to maintain locomotion.

This last charge was made against a crippled, preacher-friend of mine who was preaching on the street.

City Ordinances

It is impossible for me to list all the local city ordinances for every town. Circumstances vary from town to town. Ordinances in one town may not apply to preaching in the next town.

My advice to novice street preachers, or pastors who have the time to check out their local laws, is to go to the police station and describe to them what you are about to do. Give them location, time of day, and a full description of activities. If they give you liberty, then write down the officers' names, ranks, and serial numbers, and have that on you when you go to preach. Then, if you are stopped by an officer, kindly say that he may want to check with his superiors. At that time, supply him with a copy of their names, ranks, and badge numbers.

In the case of the police not giving you liberty, ask specifically what law you would violate. Then, if you can make some alteration to your activities which would bring you back within the limits of the law, take care of the matter. If the law seems, after consideration and prayer, to be unfair, obtain a

copy of that law or ordinance and read it carefully. You may have to test the law by getting arrested and letting the judge decide. If it comes to this point, keep in mind that it is only a misdemeanor and is usually thrown out of court. Also, if you anticipate an encounter with police, be sure to have I.D. on you, and it is a good idea to have enough cash to bail yourself out.

Confrontation

Police encounters are eventually inevitable if you are going to have a public ministry. If you are going to preach in a certain town many times during a long period of time, then follow the instructions under the section entitled "City Ordinances." Whenever you have the time to check out the local laws — do it. I preach in so many towns that such a task is impossible.

When we preach, we observe the first three rules, and limit our time in one place to thirty to forty minutes. Usually this is so perfectly timed, that we are packing up the accordion just as the police arrive to tell us we can't do that. We delight in these guerrilla warfare tactics, realizing that the gospel went forth and the people were warned. Sometimes we will have a confrontation with the police. Again, the one not preaching tries to run interference, and the preaching continues as long as possible. If the police officer demands that you stop preaching, then you stop.

Compromise

The next two illustrations I'm about to use violate the third basic rule of street work: avoid preaching at night. The conflicts which arose only serve to prove the wisdom of observing the rule.

Albany, Georgia, fall of 1987, Banana's Bar on Slappy Drive, 9:30 p.m. Six of us (five preachers and one wife) preached to a parking lot full of cars, but no people. Ten minutes later there were thirty-five to forty folk who had come out to hear us. A black policewoman arrived — very authoritatively — wielding a flashlight. She started out of her car toward the one preaching when I headed her off. Following is our conversation:

Policewoman: "Are you in charge here?"

Myself: "Yes, Ma'am"

Policewoman: "Would you mind moving just a hundred yards down this way?"

Myself: "Well, Ma'am, there is no one down there, and there are people here. Are we not on public property? Is there really any legal reason why we cannot remain here?" (Remember, the preaching is still going on.)

Policewoman: "Well, these folks really don't want to hear what you have to say."

Myself: "Well, Ma'am, really, if you know where there is a group of people who want to hear what we have to say, I'll move the whole crew there."

Policewoman: "I see what you mean." (Then she was joined by a backup patrolman. A wimpy sort of fellow.)

Wimp Cop: "But these folks are drunk, and they might come out of the bar and start something."

Myself: "Sir, if that happens, you may rest assured that we did not start it and that it is not what we are trying to accomplish. Also, you may consider that they may come out of the bar and hear the gospel and get saved, and never go back in the bar."

Wimp Cop: "Yes, I never thought of that."

Policewoman: "Well, just how long do you plan to be preaching here?" (At this point I know I have won the liberty to continue and it really didn't matter what answer I gave. In order to save face, the policewoman had to have the last word.)

Myself: "We have already been here for quite a while, so we'll probably stay for about twenty minutes more."

Policewoman: "Well, if that's all you'll be here, then that's fine."

(The preaching never stopped.)

Jacksonville, Florida, October 1987, Fantasee World Topless Lounge, Cesary Boulevard, 8:30 p.m. My partner and I parked on the public street in

front of the lounge just thirty feet from the front door. We didn't realize that this lounge had been the center of heated controversy for the past two weeks. The owner's interpretation of the law prohibiting toplessness was that it was inseparable with the alcohol license. He relinquished his license to allow toplessness and invited seventeen-year-olds in as well. The papers had kept it hot, and several groups had already protested and demonstrated against it. We had a 4x6 utility trailer with a steel top for a preaching platform, and it was richly and attractively lettered with a bold witness. When we parked, we looked at a parking lot full of cars and one bouncer at the outside of the door. We sat and discussed whether it would be beneficial to preach or not. We decided to pray about it.

When we finished praying, we opened our eyes and there at my partner's door stood four enormous bouncers. They asked if they could help us. We replied in the negative and asked if we could help them. To say we were intimidated would be a gross understatement. They asked what we planned to do, and we said, "We're going to preach." They said, "You can't preach here. This is private property." We said, "We're going to preach on our trailer from the street, and this is our private property." They said, "We can have you removed." We said, "You do what you have to, but we're going to preach." They left to call the police.

I looked at my partner and said, "Well, there's no more debating about it, we gotta preach now." He agreed and got out on top of the trailer. I almost wish I had gotten there first. I grabbed some tracts and stood on the curb. My partner began to preach, and within ten minutes, the lounge and the pits of hell both vomited their contents into the parking lot. The vilest, most demonic group of sinners I have ever faced stood before us mocking, jeering, gurgling, prancing, growling, and threatening to end our ministry with a martyr's crowning. A whore stood half clothed with sun glasses on at 8:30 p.m. and said in a valley girl accent, "You guys are ridiculous. You know that, don't ya?" Presently, a young male drove his car up and blocked the driveway between us and the front door. He opened all the doors and turned his stereo full volume with heavy metal rock. One of the huge bouncers was prancing about the trailer and us, growling and making other virtually inhuman noises. Then, he would stop and say, "You're going to jail. I hope you like jail. Maybe we'll come and see you down at the jail." Traffic had now slowed considerably on the four lane street we were parked on, and there was a general disturbance in the area. My partner never stopped preaching, and I, with clammy hands, was offering everyone a tract, with no

success at all. This was one of the few times I have actually prayed for the police to come.

Then it got worse. The owner came out, cheered by the crowd, who expected him to be successful in scaring us off. He was a sight! He was about fifty-five, with long, bleach blond hair. He had a dame on each arm and, on a choker chain, a 175 pound Rottweiler looking for preacher meat. The owner told us that we were parked illegally and that we'd better leave before the police got there, or we would go to jail. I told him we'd wait and let the police decide. So, he decided to give us a stress test. He ordered his dog to attack my partner, who was still preaching on the trailer. The dog went wild trying to get on top of the trailer, and might have been successful but for the choker chain. My partner never flinched; he was full of the power of the Holy Spirit. The owner then commanded the dog to attack me on the ground. Oh, how I felt the call to preach. The dog was fourteen inches from my body and ferociously following the command of his master. Wishing I had on a Depend diaper, I offered everyone another round of tracts, but no takers — not even Poochy.

The parking lot was now crowded, the lounge was probably suffering from lack of patronage, the traffic was at a crawl because of the riotous situation, and finally the police arrived. Oh, was I happy to see that policeman. He pulled right into the parking lot, and was immediately thronged by the lounge people, who were urging him to throw us in jail or make us quit. He hushed them quickly and gave sharp orders to get the music turned off, the car moved, and the dog out of the way. Then he just got in his car for a precious few moments while my partner continued to preach. He got out, straightened his uniform, walked slowly over to me, and said, "Is this your outfit?" I answered that it was. Then he said very slowly, even hesitantly as if to stall as long as possible, "You're parked in an emergency zone." I stalled, too, allowing maximum preaching of the gospel, then I replied, "My goodness, is that right? I saw no markings to indicate that. What about all these other cars parked along here?" He answered, stalling yet another sizable pause, "Well, I don't know who they belong to, but they'll have to move as well." I said, "Well, if we are really parked illegally, I guess we'll have to move then. Come on, Bear." Bear, my partner, got in the car and we drove off quickly to a rest room. The bottom line is that there were forty to fifty folk who heard the gospel and who knew that there had been a prophet among them (Ezek. 2:5).

Court

O.K., suppose you've done everything you could do to avoid it, but they still arrest you. Now what? First of all, don't panic; it's only a misdemeanor, and most likely, if you handle it right, it will be thrown out of court at the arraignment. But, if you have the time, money, and inclination to fight for the open door to preach the gospel in that community, then I have listed some people to contact for help, advice, and information at the end of this section.

Please make sure, however, that you have been arrested for preaching on the street. Several years ago in Birmingham, Alabama, I was preaching with five other preachers. We had been standing on a cement newsstand on the corner. The police came right up to us and said, "You may preach on the sidewalk, but not on the newsstand. If you continue on the newsstand, I'll have to take you to the station." Three preachers got up on the stand in the presence of the officer and were arrested. As they gleefully rode away in the caged back seat of the police car, I thought to myself, "What a bunch of idiots." They were not arrested for preaching on the street; they were arrested for violating private property and disobeying a police officer.

Resources

Christian Law Association
Gibbs and Craze Law Firm
Cleveland, Ohio (216) 696-3900

Transcripts of interesting court cases involving street preaching may be obtained from:

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
Record No. 84-2192
Buren Lee Furr, Jr., et al., Appellees,
Town of Swansea, et al., Appellants.

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Court of Common Pleas
39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania
Franklin Country Branch
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania vs.
David Theodore Stroede and Timothy John Schuler
Criminal Action Nos. 153-180-1986
Charge: Disorderly Conduct
#198-1986

From: <http://www.frontiernet.net/~avtruth/legal.html>

SUPREME COURT RULINGS ON STREET PREACHING AND PUBLIC SPEECH IN GENERAL

U.S. Iowa, 1969: Undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough to overcome right to freedom of expression. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist. 89 S. Ct. 733, 393/ U.S. 5()3/21 L. Eid. 2d. 731).

Also, see identical ruling, Federal District Court, Texas, 1969: (Calbillo v. San Jancinto Junior College, 305 F. Supp. 857, cause remanded 434 F. 2d. 609, appeal after remand 446 F. 2d. 887).

Federal Court of Appeals, Florida, 1972: Hostile audience is not basis for restraining otherwise legal first amendment activity. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Collie v. Chicago Park Dist., 460 F. 2d. 746).

Federal Court of Appeals, Florida, 1974: Public expression of ideas may not be prohibited merely because ideas are themselves of offensive to some of their hearers. West's F.S.A. 877.03; U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Wiegand v. Seaver, 504 F. 2d. 303).

Federal Court of Appeals, Indiana, 1974: Freedom of expression (does not mean freedom to express only approved ideas; it means freedom to express any idea. (Perry v. Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc. 499 F. 2d. 797).

Federal Court of Appeals, District of Columbia, 1977: The Constitution mandates that access to the streets, sidewalks, parks, and other similar public places for purpose of exercising first amendment rights cannot be denied broadly and absolutely. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Washington Mobilization Committee v. Cullinane, 566 F. 2d. 107, 184 U. S. App. D. C. 215).

United States District Court, E.D. Wisconsin, April 30, 1970: An ordinance that proscribes conduct that tends to "disturb or annoy others" is both vague and overbroad. I he constitutionally protected exercise of free expression frequently causes a disturbance, for the very purpose of the first amendment is to stimulate the creation and communication of new, and therefore, often controversial ideas. The prohibition against conduct that tends to disturb another would literally make it a crime to deliver an unpopular speech that resulted in a "disturbance." Such a restriction is a clearly invalid restriction of constitutionally protected free expression. (Gardner v. Ceci, 312 F. Supp. 516/ see also Landry v. Daley, 280 F. Supp. 968, N.D. 111. 1968).

Federal District Court, Tennessee, 1978: The fact that persons might express their religious views at some place other than the public streets, sidewalks, and other areas of

the city does not have any consequence in determining the validity of permit requirements with respect to the use of such public areas. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Smith v. City of Manchester, 460 F. Supp. 30).

Federal Court of Appeals, Virginia, 1982: Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on free expression and their enforcement cannot be based on content of speech thereby restricted.

A compelling governmental interest unrelated to speech must be served by restriction on speech.

Ordinance containing restrictions on free expression must be drawn with narrow specificity to be no more restrictive than necessary to secure such interest.

Adequate alternative channels of communication must be left open by restrictions on free expression. Davenport v. City of Alexandria, Virginia, 683 F. 2d. 853, on rehearing 710 F. 2d. 148. Also, see Salahuddin v. Carlson, 523 F. Supp. 314.).

Federal Court of Appeals, Virginia, 1973: The first amendment protects from state interference the expression in a public place of the unpopular as well as the popular and the right to assemble peaceably in a public place in the interest and furtherance of the unpopular as well as the popular. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (National Socialist White People's Party v. Ringers, 473 F. 2d. 1010).

Federal Court of Appeals, Virginia, 1972: Government may not favor one religion over another. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (U.S. v. Crowthers, 456 F. 2d. 1074).

U.S., Arkansas, 1968: The freedom of religion provision of the first amendment forbids alike the preference of a religious doctrine or the prohibition of a theory which is deemed antagonistic to a particular dogma. The state has no legitimate interest in protecting any or all religions from views distasteful to them. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Epperson v. State of Arkansas, 89 S. Ct. 266).

Federal Court of Appeals, Texas, 1972: "Controversy" is never sufficient in and of itself to stifle the views of any citizen. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Shanlcy v. Northeast Independent School Dist., Bexar County, Texas, 462 F. 2d. 960).

U.S., California, 1971: As a general matter, the establishment clause of the first amendment prohibits government from abandoning secular purposes in order to put an imprimatur on one religion, or on religion as such, or to favor the adherence of any sect or religious organization. U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. I (Negre v. Larsen, 91 S. Ct. 828).

PASSING TRACTS IS LEGAL

Chief Justice Hughes, U.S. Supreme Court, held; (Lovell vs. City of Griffen, Ga., Vol. 58, #12, 4/15/38) "The liberty of the press is not confined to newspapers and periodicals. It necessarily embraces pamphlets and leaflets. Liberty of circulation is as essential to the freedom as liberty of publishing. Indeed, without circulation, the publication would be of little value."

Similarly, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Black, in 1943 decided: "We think the judgment (against two tract distributors) must be reversed because the Dallas ordinance denies the appellant (the wrongfully accused woman) the freedom of press and religion guaranteed to her by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the federal Constitution...One who is rightfully on a street which the state has left open to the public carries with him there, as elsewhere, the constitutional right to express his views in an orderly fashion. This right extends to the communication of ideas by handbills and literature, as well as the spoken word."

LOUD SPEAKERS PERMITTED

The U.S. Supreme Court, 6/7/48, "Saia vs. NY." Legalized use of loud speakers in public places. Cities may, by local ordinances, control excessive noise, and time and place (public places like parks should be left open) but cannot ban loudspeakers, or censor "annoying ideas." This is your constitutional right, and the Supreme Court said that no local police should make persons lose time in court to prove a right which is already theirs.

STREET MEETINGS: NO PERMIT NEEDED ACCORDING TO U.S. SUPREME COURT

Justice Roberts, U.S. Supreme Court, in Nov. 1939 decided: "The freedom of speech and of the press secured by the First Amendment against abridgment by the U.S. is similarly secured to all persons by the Fourteenth Amendment, Section One, against abridgment by a state. Although a municipality may enact regulations in the interest of the public safety, health, welfare, or convenience.

These may not abridge the individual liberties secured by the constitution to those who wish to speak, write, print, or circulate information or opinions. We hold a municipality cannot require all who wish to disseminate ideas to present them first to police authorities for their consideration and approval." Justice Black in 1946, also similarly held these rights also extend to company owned towns and Federal Villages.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Douglas on 7/22/48 held that "subjecting the right to hold street meetings to the discretion of city officials, or the payment of a fee, interfered with the constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly."

Amendment 1 (Adopted 1791)

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 to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 14 Section 1 (Adopted 1868)

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any persons of life, liberty, property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.