

Burnside, Jennings

From: Spangler, Mark
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2012 4:33 PM
Subject: Occupy Austin Update: Operational Period January 6- 8, 2012. Information cut off January 5, 2012 11:00hrs
Attachments: Occupy Austin update 01052012.pdf; Occupy-Austin-Criminal-incidents_Trespass 01_03_2012.pdf

Distribution: Executive Staff/SRT Command Staff/Operational Management Team/ARIC

The Austin Regional Intelligence Center has received the following information for distribution regarding the ongoing Occupy Austin protest. Please see the attached bulletins. If your agency or unit would like more information, please contact the Austin Regional Intelligence Center.

Attached to this bulletin is the available information regarding planned events for the operational period of January 6 to 8, 2012. Additionally this bulletin discusses events that are scheduled to occur January 16-20, 2012. This current available information does not negate the possibility of spontaneous, on-site decisions that could change this situation with little or no notice. ARIC is maintaining its operational hours today and is available after-hours as needed.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, January 6th

All day Occupy City Hall

All day State Capitol Occupation

18:00hrs Occupy Austin 3 month anniversary party

Saturday, January 7th

All day Occupy City Hall

All day State Capitol Occupation

11:00hrs Occupy Yoga. 108 Sun Salutations

12:00hrs Occupy Apps Hackathon

17:00hrs Twitter Teach in

18:30hrs Facilitators Proposal/Stack MTG

19:00hrs General Assembly

21:00hrs Working Groups

21:00hrs Facilitators After GA meeting

Sunday, January 8th

All day Occupy City Hall

All day State Capitol Occupation

14:00hrs Occupy Austin Reading Group

19:00hrs Occupy Austin Interfaith Group Prayer Service

19:00hrs Occupy Austin Public Policy Group MTG

19:30hrs Facilitators Training
21:00hrs Working Groups

Monday, January 2, 2012

All day Occupy City Hall!

All day State Capitol Occupation

18:30hrs Facilitators Proposal/Stack MTG @ Austin Java

19:00hrs General Assembly @ City Hall

21:00hrs Occupy Austin Women's Group @ Texas State Capitol

21:00hrs Working Groups @ City Hall

21:00hrs Facilitators After GA meeting @ Austin Java

Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC)

6100 Guadalupe, Bldg E

Austin, TX 78752

ARIC@ci.austin.tx.us

512-974-ARIC (2742)

1507

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages to the Austin Police Department may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.



6100 Guadalupe St, Bldg E
ARIC@austintexas.gov
(512) 974-ARIC

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Requestor Name/Agency	Austin Police Department
Assigned To	C.DeGraffenreid #4664
Date/Time of Report	Update 1/05/2012 @ 11:00

(New info is highlighted)

(U) SYNOPSIS

- As part of the nationwide movement known as "Occupy Wall Street", an organized protest is scheduled to begin October 6, 2011 at 10:00am in Austin and continue indefinitely. The movement has issued a statement of solidarity with the protestors in New York; *"We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who Occupy Wall Street and occupy around the world. We are dedicated to non-violently reclaiming control of our governments from the financial interests that have corrupted them. We demand that our public servants recognize that the people are the supreme authority."* The approved mission statement for the event states: "Our mission is to assert our rightful place within the political process and take the reins of power away from profit-driven interests."
- The organizers of the local event are calling for a peaceful, non-violent protest but there have been acts of civil disobedience and isolated criminal conduct associated with the nation-wide event.

(U-LES) Key Findings

Occupy Austin Priority Intelligence Requirements:

1. List of potential demonstration sites

- a. Primary gathering site is the plaza at Austin City Hall.
- b. Texas Capital Grounds
- c. Financial Centers in Downtown District
- d. 6th Street Entertainment District History
- e. University of Texas Campus-Near UT tower
- f. As of yet unidentified park in the Downtown area

2. Protest times and days of week

- a. January 4, 2012 10:00hrs Occupy Austin Bank action Travis County Foreclosure Auction
- b. January 6 -7, 2012 19:00hrs This is the 3-month anniversary party for Occupy Austin. Events to celebrate this date are planned for these two days.
- c. January 14, 2012 09:00hrs Occupy Austin Tree Planting
- d. Beginning January 16, 2012 19:00hrs Occupy University of Texas plans to Occupy UT Tower.
- e. January 16, 2012 09:00-14:00hrs MLK day March
- f. January 20, 2012 Occupy the Courts 11:30-14:00 Federal Court House



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

3. Potential demonstrator strength per site

- a. Current overall estimates for the event vary from early morning lows of around 20 people to highs during the evening of up to a couple of hundred. The largest march on October 15th rallied approximately 800-1000 people.
- b. Initial group discussions on/about October 6th, spoke of dividing into "platoon"-sized elements and moving to various secondary locations in the downtown area. Historically, this tactic has not materialized, but it should be considered as a potential tactic.
- c. Occupy Austin Protests Travis County Foreclosure Auction- This event had about 12 protesters who showed up at the Travis County property auction. Protesters showed up with signs and began chanting near where the auction was taking place. They stayed for approximately 10-15 minutes then left without incident. These events could continue on a monthly basis (1st Tuesday). In other Occupy cities, these protests have disrupted the sales and resulted in arrests disrupting a public meeting.
- d. The 3 month Occupy Austin birthday celebration was originally seeking to obtain a permit for this event. As of today, they have neither applied for nor received a permit. The organizers are aware of the restriction on amplified sound and are of the opinion to take their chances to see if they will be shut down or not. Anticipated numbers for this event could be in the 100-200 person range depending on the weather and if the information is widely distributed. Civil disobedience has been discussed but no details given.
- e. Occupy Austin Tree Planting- planned group of 50 persons to attend this event at 900 Robert E. Lee on south fence of the Barton Springs Pool.
- f. The Occupy University of Texas protest is continuing in its planning stages. According to open source reporting the event will coincide with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration and will include members from the Occupy Wall Street Movement coming to the University of Texas Campus. This event is to include a march beginning from the MLK statue on the UT campus and ending at Huston Tillotson. After the march they plan on meeting at Kealing Park 1500 Rosewood. More details of this event will follow. The size of the MLK parade will influence the numbers of this protest.
- g. Occupy the Courts-National Day of Protest. Movetoammend.org applied for a permit to protest at the Federal Court House. The permit was approved but the Government Services Administration then realized the only place to protest is the sidewalk which belongs to the City of Austin. The application calls for less than 20 protesters to attend. Movetoammend.org is linked to Occupy Austin.

4. Demonstrated tactics and interaction with police in Austin and other cities

- a. Up to this point, the focus of the Occupy Austin movement has been on peaceful protest and they have made a point to encourage working with police. However, the online presence of the movement has often been highly anti-police and has focused on dealing with police response tactics such as wearing bandanas and goggles to protect against the use of pepper spray.
- b. On October 10th, 2011 the General Assembly of the Occupy Austin Protest discussed the subject of civil disobedience. Damaging property as a means of civil disobedience is being discussed as a



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

tactic for "autonomous" individuals wanting to express themselves either inside or apart from the group. Violence against people was discouraged as a means of civil disobedience.¹

- c. The Occupy Austin has recently trained approximately 40-50 members in direct action civil disobedience. On the November 5th march, protesters took over several lanes of traffic while enroute and returning from their bank protest site. Protesters were also encouraged by other members to sit down in an intersection in an effort to disrupt traffic flow. This suggestion was rejected but it is important to note its attempted use.
- d. There is continuing theme of unrest growing inside the occupy group. There have been increased calls to increase both the quantity and quality of civil disobedience and direct action as a protest tactic. A new splinter group dubbed "Guerilla Theater" has started a think tank for "creative, non-violent action."
- e. Officer Safety Bulletins from other Occupy sites across the city have pointed out the use or potential use of devices to defeat handcuffs and flex cuffs including pins and broken razorblades, a concealed handcuff key was recovered off a local protestor after he was arrested for chaining himself to a tree at City Hall. Another local activist was observed on-camera demonstrating how he could utilize a large industrial safety pin (with a spike approximately 6" in length) that he kept concealed at his waist as a weapon.
- f. On January 5, 2012 at approximately 03:16hrs, a fire was started on the City Hall Plaza. AFD Arson investigators have made an arrest of the person believed to be responsible for the incident charging him with criminal mischief.

5. Any local open source discussions or otherwise detected

- a. Occupy Austin continues to hold General Assembly (planning) meetings every day since Sept 29th. Highest turnout for the planning meetings has been around 500 people and they usually average less than 100 people. General Assembly meetings are held at 19:00hrs. The locations have varied with the latest location being the old fire training tower on E. Cesar Chavez and at the Texas Capital grounds.
- b. The primary organizational website is www.occupyaustin.org
- c. Media releases from both national and local outlets are considered to have medium levels of reliability. Law enforcement personnel should confirm these reports before acting on information received through these outlets.
- d. Information posted on social media sites should be considered as unreliable or of low reliability. Law Enforcement personnel should confirm these reports with the Austin Regional Intelligence Center before acting on information received through these outlets.

6. Assessment:

Based on open source research, the Austin Regional Intelligence Center assessment of this event suggests that the event could cause localized disruption in traffic if large numbers of people gather in small or confined areas. Protestors may continue to encourage/engage in civil disobedience to attract media coverage to their cause as an avenue of exposure.

¹ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j4t9K6W9-UIWvljzcP44kdL0g4zm4-ICBjQ8gFd4IUw/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1#



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

The level of civil disobedience usually consists of disorderly conduct, blocking of public thoroughfares, and refusal to leave after receiving a lawful order to disperse. Additionally, it is likely that additional groups with their own agenda may piggyback on the exposure of the Occupy Austin event and that the Occupy Austin protesters will piggyback on other days of significance such as the MLK parade. This has been seen in other cities that are experiencing Occupy protests.

These additional protestors may include person(s) who advocate violence as a means to express civil disobedience and use the presence of the crowd to hide or mask their activities. Social media postings continue an acknowledgment by event organizers that there maybe individuals who may take "autonomous" action.

The outlook for this operational period is expected to continue without major OA incidents, but due to the fluid nature of the group and events, officers should maintain situational awareness at all times. Occupy sites in several cities are experiencing recent events where protesters are being arrested for continued acts of civil disobedience.

ARIC personnel continue to monitor social networking sites and news media outlets for indicators of planned or pending criminal activity. First responders should remain vigilant to the possibility of unexpected changes in the direction of protests. It is important to note that the Occupy Austin federal trial related to the issuance of criminal trespass notices ended without a verdict from the bench. This verdict could come during this operational period and may serve as a potential flash point when issued.

This document is Unclassified-Law Enforcement Sensitive and should not be further disseminated without the express permission of the Director of the Austin Regional Intelligence Center. This document is not for public release.

MMS