

TACTICS FOR TEA PARTIES AND 9/12 PEOPLE

January 17, 2010

Incident and Response

All Tea Party people and 9/12 people need to be aware of an incident that occurred in Boise at the combined Tea Party/9/12 rally at Capitol Park in Boise. Many of you saw it, but many did not.

Because of this incident I will identify things for Tea Party and 9/12 people to be alert for and suggest specific actions we can take when other such incidents occur (which I think will happen).

During the rally at Capitol Park a large, rather tough-looking young man appeared, carrying a "protest" sign that was supposed to look homemade, but clearly had been exaggerated (some words were running at odd angles, etc.). This man walked up near the speakers' platform and began shouting wild and irrelevant things (something about George Bush I think) and claiming that there were government plots and generally being disruptive.

Prior to the time this man arrived, a young woman showed up with an expensive but old movie camera --somewhat like the news media use, but older. She set up a tripod right in the front of the audience and began to film in a very business-like manner, and she obviously was not interested in the content of the speeches. She seemed like a professional photographer of some sort.

When the disruptive man showed up, the woman instantly swung her camera around and began filming him and filming what happened next. What happened was that several Tea Party or 9/12 men approached him and told him to leave. A brief shouting match followed and the man backed off and left the area. The moment he left, the woman with the movie camera packed up her equipment and left, and I saw that she headed in the same direction as the disruptive man had gone.

This incident may have been a test...perhaps by members of the SEIU organization (Service Employees International Union). And they got what they came for, which was intelligence on how our people would respond to such a provocation.

I anticipate that incidents like this will occur again, and I expect them to escalate as we approach the next election cycles. I would be surprised if these people don't infiltrate our groups and, while appearing to be part of public demonstrations or events, take public actions that are designed to discredit us, including actions that may include violence and lawbreaking. We must be prepared.

So how did we do, and what can we do to prepare for the future? Could this incident have been better handled by us? What should be done in the event that provocateurs escalate to violence or to a high level of disruption? How can we identify infiltrators from organizations that support bigger government? How can we minimize the potential for violence? What specific actions should we take in the event of violence?

The incident at Capitol Park fortunately ended with the provocateur backing down and leaving...but it might not have turned out that way. There could have been other "goons" strategically placed to intervene. Some ideas for the future:

1. Consideration should be given to paying for an off-duty policeman or sheriff to be present at the event in civilian clothes.
2. Consider giving the provocateur one minute at the microphone to vent (never giving him physical possession of the microphone) and then thanking him for his input. He will not expect this and will make a fool of himself.
3. Offer the provocateur the opportunity to speak his mind on camera: escort him to one side of the event and have someone who has a video camera go through the motions of videotaping him while he rants. (He'll soon wear out.)
4. Have a group of men scattered throughout the crowd who will instantly converge on and surround a provocateur, moving him subtly out of the area without resort to force.
5. The moment a provocateur starts a disruption, several people with video cameras should move into the area and start recording everything. When the person leaves, he should be followed by people with video cameras and any vehicle used by the provocateur should be videotaped. The same procedure should be followed if there are multiple provocateurs.
6. Everyone at any event or demonstration should be told to be very observant of what is going on around them. Any group of people who appear to not fit in --who look like toughs or potential troublemakers, should be gotten on camera and their presence reported to the event organizers.

Make sure that people who look like potential troublemakers see that they are being photographed by video cameras.

This act alone may make them reluctant to initiate subsequent violence.

7. If anyone in or near our events or demonstrations begins any act of violence, it is imperative that many people converge with video cameras and make sure the perpetrators know they are being put on film.

Immediately phone the police and make sure they know that the acts are being committed by outside persons not affiliated with us.

Do not physically intervene with perpetrators of violence unless it is violence against persons or it is an act that could cause great bodily harm (such as arson) and there is no other alternative. Let the police handle the situation.

8. In the event of any incident, try to calm down the situation and make sure everyone causing a disruption or violence knows their actions are being documented.
9. Tea Party and 9/12 people should acquire good quality video cameras. The best models for use in crowds are probably the low to medium-priced models having flash memory (sturdier than hard drives) and good lens zoom capabilities. Four excellent choices are:

Cannon Vixia HF 200 camcorder \$549 (Good with Macintosh)
Sony HDR CX 110/L camcorder \$499 (Not Macintosh compatible)
Sony HDR CX 150 R camcorder \$549 (Not Macintosh compatible)
Sanyo Xacti VPC-CS1 camcorder \$299 list and 10x zoom capability

The Sanyo Xacti VPC-CS1 camera is extraordinarily thin and ideal for a woman's purse or a man's pants pocket. It is the first extremely small flash memory camera with a 10x zoom capability ...less zoom than the bigger, more expensive cameras, but much more powerful than any mini compact camcorder I have seen. It lists for \$299 and may be discounted when it comes out in February.

As Judge Andrew Napolitano says*:

"The camera is the new gun. There's nothing that government dislikes more than the light of day, and cameras recording what the government is doing, whether it's on a street corner, or in there, or in Washington D.C., we have the right to know everything that they do and why they do it, and when they do it, and how they've taken our freedom."

*Keynote speech at the Ohio Rally for State Sovereignty,
August 1, 2009

A training sheet containing suggested procedures to take in the event of activities by outside agitators needs to be available to Tea Party and 9/12 people on the respective organization's website. Suggestions in addition to those above could be added. These sheets could be distributed at rallies and demonstrations. People need to anticipate what could happen and be mentally prepared. They also need to think about how to head off and deflect potential violence and be prepared psychologically if violence should occur. Policies need to be in place on when to seek police intervention and good relations need to be cultivated with police and sheriff's department personnel.