

**Letter To The City Council
Of Worcester, Massachusetts, From A Local Citizen**

Subject: Requesting that the city have a friendly relationship with Occupy Worcester
From: Stone Riley
Date: November 18, 2011

It seems to me that the people of Occupy Worcester are doing their duty, as best they understand it, in a national emergency. By stifling them, the City of Worcester is doing a disservice to the country.

Like in countless places across this country, they are assembling peacefully and calling our community to an open democratic discussion, so we can all together figure out what's wrong and how to fix it.

There is no doubt that the emergency is real. What fool would deny it? But are they at fault for volunteering in this crisis to do the best they can? Anyone who says that knows nothing about our heritage.

So if that's basically okay, what charges are brought against them?

They sometimes set a camp in public parks or parade in public streets, saying this is necessary to get a good discussion of our problems going.

And their accusers say they're not allowed to choose what practices are necessary to their national duty, if they violate one dot or squiggle of the city's regulations for ordinary life.

Of course the U.S. Constitution says that's nonsense. And of course it is far more important, far more fundamental to the way we govern ourselves, than those city ordinances.

The Constitution clearly indicates in its "*to peaceably assemble*" and its "*freedom of speech*" that we are expected to do exactly what the Occupy people are doing when there's serious doubt and trouble. That's in the Bill of Rights.

And then the Fourteenth Amendment, after the Civil War, made it perfectly clear that local governments have no business preventing U.S. people from going about their national business in this way. You are simply out of order when you do that.

Because of all of this, so we can all talk together about our terrible situation and figure out what to do, I implore you on the City Council to form a friendly relationship with Occupy Worcester. Stop harassing them. I ask this for our children and their children and their children.

Sincerely and respectfully, Stone Riley

Web Resources:

This document: www.stoneriley.com/MYOC/LetterToTheCityCouncil.pdf

Browse my documents: www.stoneriley.com/Myoc_GO.html