

**MINNEAPOLIS POLICE  
INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND  
ANALYSIS CENTER**

**Republican National Convention  
Possible Protest Impact on Minneapolis**

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## **General Background:**

The Republican National Convention (RNC) is being hosted by St. Paul, MN and is scheduled for 01SEP2008-04SEP2008. However, there will be several thousand delegates staying in Minneapolis as well as convention related events occurring in Minneapolis at such locations as the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Recent estimates put the number of protestors who will be coming to the Twin Cities at 100,000. It has been estimated that up to 45,000 delegates and guests will also be arriving with up to 10,000 staying in Minneapolis.

## **Protestor Goals:**

The protest groups will have a variety of goals. Some of the known, stated goals include the following:


“To shut down the cities, delay and disrupt the conventions and media coverage.”

“To deter cities from wanting to host the conventions in the future”

“To offer space for a range of tactics to provide opportunities for all varieties of activists”

“To use the media to our advantage”

“To focus on the themes of “No War, No Warming” and “No Borders” “



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## **Protestor Tactics:**

The protestors that will be in Minneapolis and the greater Twin Cities area will likely employ a variety of tactics and techniques in an attempt to attain their goals. They will attempt to draw attention to themselves in a variety of ways in their attempt to have their message heard. Some of these include, but will likely not be limited to the following;

Massing of protestors at key points to attain high visibility.

Massing of protestors at key avenues of approach to shut down movement or traffic.

Legal or permitted and illegal demonstrations.

Large signs, banners and tagging.

Highly visible stunts or direct actions in public places.

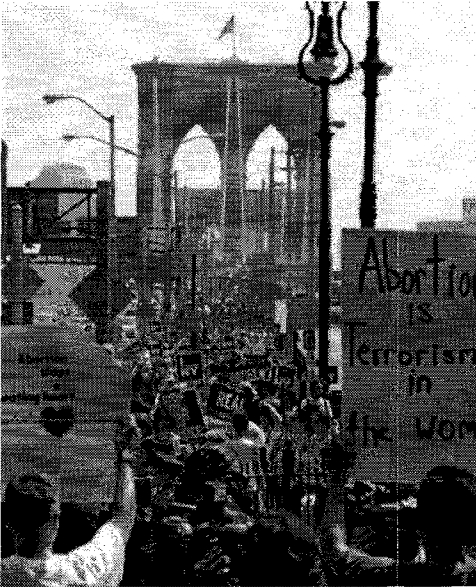
Destruction of public and private property.

Violence targeting law enforcement, delegates, bystanders and the media.



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## Protestor Tactics Examples:



Massing at key Avenue  
of Approach

Massing of protestors at  
key points to attain high  
visibility.



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## Protestor Tactics Examples:



Destruction of property



Highly Visible Stunts and  
Banners




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## The Protestors and Law Enforcement:

Many of the protestors that will be arriving in Minneapolis and the surrounding area will likely be comprised of individuals who are not indigenous to the Twin Cities area, but will be drawn to the Twin Cities Metro as a result of the RNC. Most of them will be relatively peaceful in nature and will not pose a threat to the personal safety of MPD personnel. However, many of them will utilize violence as a means to forward their anti-government and anti-authority agendas. These violence minded protestors will likely view law enforcement personnel as significant representatives of the government that they oppose. They can be expect to provoke law enforcement personnel to take enforcement action by utilizing violent or direct action against law enforcement personnel and/or innocent bystanders. One of their goals will be to attempt to create images of law enforcement personnel engaging them so that they can claim brutality and violations of their civil rights. They will likely attempt to use such incidents as a basis for future law suits against the city of Minneapolis. The events of 31AUG07 at the Critical Mass Ride/pReNC appear to be an example of this.

These violent protesters believe that images of what they consider a violent response by law enforcement will be seen by a very large audience as a part of network and cable news coverage of the RNC. They may believe that such news coverage and images will win sympathy for their cause. The use of the media provides them an inexpensive means to express their view point to a wider audience.



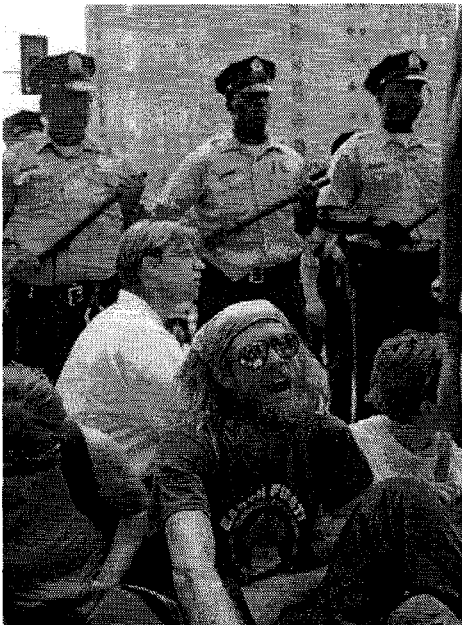
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## Protestor Tactics Re: Police Examples:



Crowd with cameras

Protestors being arrested




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## Conclusion:

The RNC and the DNC will be seen by violent protest groups as the ultimate stage upon which to have their message and agendas seen and heard.

The majority of the protestors that MPD will face will likely remain peaceful in nature. There will be a significant portion of protestors who will not remain peaceful. This violence oriented element will tend to be radical in their views of established governments and will likely stand for the overthrow or removal of all standing forms of government regardless of political party (Democrat or Republican) and the liberal or conservative tendencies of those serving in government. There is also a very strong likelihood that large commercial businesses will be targeted as well. Many of these violent elements will place a significant portion of blame on the corporate world for many perceived social injustices. Finally, military installations such as reserve/National Guard training centers as recruiting offices will likely be targeted as well.

It can be expected that over the next year, greater numbers of protestors of this nature will travel to the Twin Cities area as they prepare for the RNC in 2008. It is likely that these individuals will have interactions with MPD and other law enforcement personnel. These encounters could become violent and could also be used as a tactic to create additional dramatic images and incidents that they feel will support their agendas.



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## Sources

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Available online at; <http://www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/>

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Unconventional Action

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