

Rally Info

Flash Mob Strategy for Rallies

I'm tentatively calling it the "Flash Mob ALERT" idea. Its goal is to avoid police confrontations that could result in massive arrests and the president calling for martial law.

Two sets of Flash Mob signals are recommended. All of the protesters should know is the "collapse" signal that unequivocally signifies that everyone should disband. Single cohort members, such as a particular group of Indivisible members should know their group's signal. Both sets of signals should be exclusive to a single event to avoid replication and confusion.

The signals can be a specific sound, such as a whistle or Tarzan yell, or visual, such as a brightly colored flag or hand gesture.

EXIT STRATEGIES

Sometimes, for a particular rally, the members of a cohort disperse throughout the crowd to intermingle with non-cohort members, perhaps to encourage others to applaud or call out. Should ICE arrive and the cohort's leader sends their signal, folks in that cohort should replicate the signal to get the attention of everyone else in that cohort. Turning to their cohort leader, they will receive further direction—perhaps exit as a group or casually move to gather in one location.

DISPERSEMENT

Upon receiving the collapse signal, protesters should disengage their attention from any speakers, fold up their signs, assume a neutral, bystander appearance, perhaps add or remove jackets, hats, umbrellas or sets of glasses, or newspapers, move out individually or pair up, affect speaking to a neighbor or on their cell phones, which should be videotaping any collapse. No confrontation. No resistance.

This is where the FlashMob metaphor is applicable. The protesters "melt" away, leave the area like a FlashMob participant at the end of a concert or dance routine. They change from being a rallier into being regular individuals seemingly disconnected with the previous activity.

ORGANIZING STRATEGIES

At their organizing meeting, cohort leaders and the organizer for that particular rally should decide on several plans of action:

1. Would the various cohorts be scattered throughout the crowd or concentrated in a single area at the rally?
2. Would they like a signal to get everyone's attention as well as a disbanding signal?
3. Could any/all of the cohort leaders have the authority to trigger the event's collapse?
4. How should they handle one cohort leader seeing the arrival of very serious police officers?