

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



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Bricks & rocks found at Hennepin County Government Center

October 24, 2011 (Minneapolis) – OccupyMN has been conducting a demonstration on the Hennepin County Government Plaza since October 7, 2011. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office supports the First Amendment rights of residents on county property, while protecting the free use of government buildings by the public and employees. The Sheriff's Office maintains public safety for everyone who uses the Government Center -- including those who work, visit, and demonstrate on the property.

Since October 5, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office has been meeting daily with organizers from OccupyMN. In each meeting, the rules have been explained. As always, conduct on county property that violates county policy, Minneapolis city ordinance or state law is not allowed. Tents are prohibited due to the public safety risks posed by such structures.

From the start of the OccupyMN demonstration, October 7, 2011, through Sunday, October 23, 2011, the Sheriff's Office personnel costs have been approximately \$200,080 (\$128,780 in overtime pay and \$71,300 in regular pay).

Since the demonstration began on October 7, seven people have been issued trespass notices. When an individual has been issued a trespass notice, the individual is prohibited from returning to the Government Center for a year.

In addition to the trespass notices, the following is a list of incidents related to the demonstration from October 7, 2011 – October 24, 2011:

10/10/11:

- One male unresponsive and extremely intoxicated was transported to HCMC.
- One male transported to HCMC for a diabetic reaction.
- One male transported for a head injury to HCMC (unknown cause).
- One suicidal male transported.

(MORE)

10/11/11:

- One person fatigued on the plaza and refused further medical.

10/12/11:

- One person down and fell from a wheelchair. HCMC on scene and handled the incident.

10/13/11:

- Tents had to be removed from the Plaza.

10/15/11:

- A woman was arrested for trespassing. Previously, she was given a trespass notice by Hennepin County Security and after defacing a building.

10/20/11:

- Seven protesters arrested by Minneapolis Police for impeding traffic at 6th St/2nd Ave. The protesters set up three tents in the middle of the intersection.
- Medical assistance requested for one man hearing voices on the plaza.

10/21/11:

- Port a Potty was intentionally lit on fire. Suspect unknown.
- Indecent exposure incident: One female and two males ran around the plaza wearing underwear. Parties left the plaza before they could be stopped and identified.

10/23/11:

- A man was arrested on the Government Plaza for theft and obstruction. The suspect is accused of stealing items from other demonstrators.
- Another man was using alcohol on the Government Plaza. He was found to have a warrant out of Stearns County and he was arrested. He was also trespassed from the property.

10/24/11:

- Hennepin County Security found a box of bricks and rocks on the Government Center Plaza. A note was attached to the items and it described the items as supplies for a riot. The Sheriff's Office is investigating. This incident is a concern for the safety of all citizens at the Government Center, those who work at the Government Center, and law enforcement officers.

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