

# City of Kalamazoo

## First Amendment Assemblies

### Media Guidance

As a member of the media, we respect the role you play in covering important events happening in the City of Kalamazoo, throughout the county and across the state.

At the City of Kalamazoo, our top priority is providing a safe community for everyone who lives, works and visits. The First Amendment guarantees individuals and groups the right to express their opinion through non-violent, peaceful assemblies and demonstrations. After all, a safe community means safer neighborhoods and a culture that promotes respect for one another.

The City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety would like to share the following guidance for media:

1. **Safety first.** We encourage members of the media to refer to these [guidelines](#) from The Poynter Institute to safely cover protests and other public demonstrations. We request that members of the media follow directions of KDPS officers to ensure safety and order, especially during assemblies.
2. **Send interview requests to Public Information Officer Ryan Bridges.** City Manager Jim Ritsema and Chief Vernon Coakley speak on the behalf of the City of Kalamazoo and KDPS, and statement and interview requests can be made by emailing Public Information Officer Ryan Bridges at [bridgesr@kalamazoo.org](mailto:bridgesr@kalamazoo.org).

We are committed to effective communications, transparency and accountability. We will continue listening to the residents and leaders in our community – and that includes members of the media – to help us make decisions, garner feedback and constantly improve.

For more information, visit [www.kalamazoo.org/assemblies](http://www.kalamazoo.org/assemblies).