

Sec. 6-13. - Picketing—Notice of intent; receipt of notice.

- (a) No picketing shall be conducted on the public ways of this city and no person shall participate in the same unless notice of intent to picket has been given to the chief of police or his designated representative, and unless a receipt of such notice has been issued.
- (b) A group of more than ten (10) persons shall give notice of intent to picket in writing and the notice given shall contain the following information. A group of ten (10) or fewer persons may give written notice of intent to picket but is not required to do so.
 - (1) The name, if any, of the organization or group sponsoring or proposing to picket unless the group indicates that it intends to picket anonymously, in which case no name is required;
 - (2) The location or locations in the City where the pickets propose to assemble and demonstrate;
 - (3) The date or dates on which the picketing is to occur;
 - (4) The name of the person and organization giving notice of intent to picket unless the person or organization indicates that it intends to picket anonymously, in which case no name is required;
 - (5) Whether or not persons below the age of eighteen (18) years are expected to participate; and
 - (6) The person or persons to be in charge of the activity and who will accompany it and carry any receipt of notice at all times.
- (c) Upon the giving of notice of intent to picket, properly completed as hereinabove set out, the designated officer shall immediately issue a receipt of notice. The receipt shall contain all information stated in the notice. Notice shall be given by the holder of a receipt of notice to the chief of police or his designated representative immediately upon the cessation of such picketing for a period of twenty-four (24) hours or more. Before resumption of picketing interrupted for any such period, a new notice shall be given and a new receipt issued.
- (d) Picketing shall be conducted only on portions of the public ways not used primarily for vehicular parking or moving traffic.
- (e) Such pickets may carry written or printed placards or signs not exceeding twenty-four (24) inches in width promoting the objective for which picketing is done provided the words used are not obscene or libelous.
- (f) Pickets must, if marching, march in single, file, not abreast, and may not march closer together than fifteen (15) feet, except in passing one another. Pickets not marching shall remain at least fifteen (15) feet apart.
- (g) If pickets promoting different objectives, causes, actions or policies desire to use a sidewalk that is already used for picketing, the chief of police or his designated agents shall allot a number of pickets promoting each objective, to use such sidewalk, on an equitable basis, proportionate to the number of objectives being promoted.
- (h) Pickets shall be restricted to use the outermost half of the sidewalk or other public way nearest the street and shall not at any time or in any way obstruct, interfere with or block: Persons entering or exiting from vehicles; persons crossing streets or otherwise using the public way; the entrance or exit to any building or access to property abutting the street or sidewalk; or pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- (i) The terms "picket," "pickets" and "picketing" as used in this section or section 6-14 include "demonstrators," persons participating in vigils and any action primarily promoting or objecting to a policy upon those portions of the public ways not used primarily for vehicular parking and moving traffic and not constituting a parade.
- (j) No person observing, engaging in or assisting in picketing shall bring to or allow to remain in the immediate area of picketing any vicious animal.

(Code 1962, § 25-34.1; Ord. No. O-2008-65, § 1, 8-5-2008)

State Law reference— Picketing to obstruct justice, G.S. § 14-225.1.

Sec. 6-14. - Same—Interference; authority to disperse crowds.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to physically interfere with pickets in the use of the sidewalk or to address profane, indecent, abusive, or threatening language to or at such pickets which would tend to provoke such pickets or others to a breach of the peace.
- (b) The police officers of the city, in the event of the assemblage of persons in such numbers as to tend to intimidate pickets pursuing their lawful objective through numbers alone or through use of inflammatory words, may direct the dispersal of persons so assembled and may arrest any person who fails to absent himself from the place of such assemblage when so directed by the police.
- (c) Whenever the free passage of any street or sidewalk in the city shall be obstructed by a crowd, whether or not the crowd assembles as a result of or in connection with picketing, the persons composing such crowd shall disperse or move on when directed to do so by a police officer. It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to so disperse or move on when so directed by a police officer as herein provided. (Ord. of 7-13-76)

(Code 1962, § 25-34.2)