

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION

Jalesha Johnson, Louise Bequeaith, Brad Penna, Brandi Ramus, and Haley Jo Dikkers,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Stephan K. Bayens, Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, *in his official and individual capacities*, Lieutenant Steve Lawrence, Iowa State Patrol District 16 Commander, *in his official and individual capacities*, and Sergeant Tyson Underwood, Assistant District 16 Commander, *in his individual capacity*, Iowa State Patrol Trooper Durk Pearston (Badge Number 168), *in his individual capacity*, and Iowa State Patrol Trooper John Doe #1, *in his individual capacity*.

Defendants.

Docket No. 20-306

**DECLARATION OF BRANDI SUE
RAMUS**

I, Brandi Sue Ramus, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18. I have personal knowledge of all the facts set forth in this declaration and would testify competently to those facts if called as a witness.
2. I was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, and continue to reside there. I am a self-employed hairstylist, and I work from a studio that I rent in West Des Moines.
3. I am a mother of two girls. One is a sophomore at North High School, and the other is a senior at Simpson College.
4. On May 29, 2020, I began attending the protests that arose from the murder of George Floyd. I strongly believe in the message of the Black Lives Matter movement, and attending the protests organized by the Des Moines Black Liberation Movement (“Des

Moines BLM”) has opened my eyes to my own privilege and compelled me to speak out against police practices in my community.

5. At these protests, I saw law enforcement officers armed in a way I could not have imagined. I saw them shooting tear gas canisters at young children who had high school logos visible on their clothes. Law enforcement tear-gassed me, and at a different protest, they shot my boyfriend with rubber bullets. Seeing law enforcement officers use violent tactics against people who were peacefully protesting was horrifying, but it motivated me to regularly attend protests, often multiple times a week.

6. My maternal instincts kicked in at this time. These children were around the age of my own, and some were even younger. Both of my children were attending protests with me regularly through the summer. Seeing young children being targeted has been a motivating factor for my continued involvement with the Black Lives Matter movement.

7. I was arrested on the afternoon of July 1, 2020, while I was at a non-violent protest at the Capitol. The purpose of that protest was to encourage Governor Reynolds to sign an executive order restoring the voting rights of Iowans with felony convictions.

8. Des Moines BLM had organized a similar event at the Capitol on June 29, 2020, without any issues. I was unable to attend that particular protest because of work commitments. However, on July 1, 2020, I did not have any work obligations until later that afternoon, so I planned to attend the protest and then go into work.

9. I arrived at the protest early in the afternoon and met with the group inside the Capitol building, near the lobby area. The protest proceeded with a few speakers and group chants.

10. Shortly after the protest began, we saw an officer with the Des Moines Police Department (“DMPD”) walking around with a pamphlet. Then the officer arrested someone and walked her through the crowd of protestors in handcuffs. Someone who knew her yelled that she was a minor. This caught everyone’s attention, and we began asking the officers why they arrested her.

11. The officer took her into a room and closed the door, so we all stood outside that door chanting. Then he took her outside the Capitol building from a side door, and a few of us followed. We saw the officers take her to a police car in handcuffs. Then we returned to the group inside.

12. When I came back inside the Capitol, I saw DMPD officers arresting another young lady, who I knew was an organizer with Des Moines BLM. They also brought her to the same room where they had brought the other protester and shut the door. We again followed them and chanted outside the room. Law enforcement officers started shoving people away from the door and even pushed several people to the ground. We continued to chant and ask why they were arresting her.

13. I was separated from the group for a few minutes as I said goodbye to my boyfriend before he left the protest. During that time, the group had followed officers outside as they took someone to a squad car. I met the group outside, and it felt very chaotic. Law enforcement officers were arresting people everywhere I looked. I saw multiple instances of several officers piled on top of individual protesters who were just standing and filming the protest.

14. As I was filming the protest outside, two female officers with DMPD shoved me backwards. I moved away from them and continued recording.

15. Just a few minutes later, as I was recording DMPD arresting two other people, an officer with the DMPD asked me to step back. Then he began walking toward me with his arms spread, forcing me to move backward. I told him that I was allowed to record and would not stop. He raised his arms to the sides and moved right in front of me, so I moved to the side to continue recording and get away from him. Then he said, “that’s it” and arrested me.

16. I asked him why I was under arrest. He did not give me an answer. Some of my friends who were nearby also asked him why he arrested me. He said nothing and proceeded to take me to the police car in handcuffs. The handcuffs were extremely tight on my left hand, so I told the officer it was painful and asked if he could readjust it, but he just ignored me. It was scary to have the officer take me into custody without providing me any explanation.

17. I was held in the car for nearly twenty minutes, and it was extremely hot. I asked multiple officers to lower the windows, and they refused. Finally, an officer moved me to a paddy wagon with a group of seven other people, including Brad Penna and Haley Jo Dikkers. They drove us from the Capitol to the Des Moines Police Station. We were held in the paddy wagon for several hours. Then an officer with the DMPD took each of us out of the vehicle individually to take our photos and complete their paperwork.

18. Iowa State Patrol had come to the Des Moines Police Department.

19. While we were in the paddy wagon at the Des Moines Police Station, waiting to be processed, Trooper Pearston with the Iowa State Patrol told us that they were banning us from the Capitol for six months, but they were working to make it one year.

20. The ban was not explained to us clearly. For example, it wasn't clear what areas were included in the ban. I asked if we could have the ban in writing so I could understand the parameters, and a different officer with the Iowa State Patrol who was nearby, Sargent Moses, confirmed that he would get it to us in writing.

21. As we were standing outside the vehicle, the officer told me I was charged with failure to disperse. However, a few minutes later I saw that in the paperwork, the charge was interference with official acts.

22. I was then taken from the Des Moines Police Department to the Polk County Jail and booked.

23. I was released from Polk County Jail at around 7 pm that night.

24. After being released, I called the Iowa State Patrol regularly to ask for information about the ban in writing. I had many conversations with them to try and understand which areas around the Capitol I had to avoid, but they did not give any clarifications until a later conversation I had with Trooper Hillyer during a protest on July 4, 2020 in support of Indigenous people.

25. That July 4, 2020 protest took place on the Iowa Capitol Complex grounds, near the bronze statue on the west lawn. A group of us who had received the ban wanted to participate, but we knew we had to avoid the Capitol Complex grounds—without having been given any information about what that specifically meant, other than what we knew, which was that it included the Capitol Building. I called Division 16 of the Iowa State Patrol, and was connected with Trooper Hillyer.

26. Trooper Hillyer told me there were certain sidewalks and areas near the Capitol that I could use, but that I had to find it out for myself by looking at a map of the Iowa Capitol

Complex grounds online on the Iowa Department of Administrative Services website. Based on that information, using my smartphone, I looked up maps to see the area I was banned from in order to avoid arrest. I found a map, attached as **Exhibit B**, and available at

<https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/general/pdf/CAPITOL%20COMPLEX%20PARKING.pdf>. I have since shared this information with some other Des Moines BLM supporters who were banned verbally and/or in writing.

27. We tried to get as close to the protest as we could to participate. We were forced to remain several blocks away, in an area we believed was not on the Capitol Complex grounds based on my conversations with trooper Hillyer and the map I reviewed. We stood at the intersection of East 9th Street and Des Moines Street. I have marked the location where we stood, along with the location of the protest, on the map attached as **Exhibit C**.

28. From that distance, we could not hear or see anything happening at the Capitol. We wanted to show our support for the cause. It was frustrating to be kept from participating in the protest.

29. On July 15, 2020, they finally sent me a written letter, attached as **Exhibit A**, stating that I was banned from the Iowa Capitol Complex grounds until January 1, 2021. The letter did not rescind or address the prior verbal ban I was given, and still did not provide a map or clear explanation of the area I am banned from.

30. Because of the bans I received verbally and in writing, I stopped going to the Capitol and anywhere around it that might be considered part of the Iowa Capitol Complex.

31. The letter said, “This admonition is continuing and perpetual until January 1st, 2021, and cannot be withdrawn prior to January 1st, 2021, except in writing by the Iowa Legislative Leadership or other future management staff.” I didn’t know what that meant, and so I contacted Iowa State Patrol again. Iowa State Patrol told me that it meant that I would have to seek written permission from specific Iowa legislators to gain access to the Capitol before January 1, 2021. They would not tell me which Iowa legislators I needed to seek permission from.

32. I emailed all State Senate and House majority and minority leaders from both political parties in a joint email asking for more information about the ban, attached as **Exhibit D**. Most legislators did not reply. Legislators from both parties who did respond indicated that they were not involved in any decision-making about the ban, and had no information about the ban. Some legislators responded in late July to indicate they would look into the matter but have since not provided any further information.

33. Before I was banned, I have attended several protests at Capitol over the years, and would like to continue protesting there. I would do so if I were no longer banned.

34. On August 17, 2020, there was a protest held by clergy members asking for the charges against our group to be dropped. I was unable to attend that event because of the ban, but wanted to attend and would have done so, were it not for the ban.

35. Not being able to attend the protest on August 17, 2020 was frustrating because I could not stand up for my rights.

36. Being banned also frustrates me because I have seen that the events held at the Capitol Complex grounds were much more powerful than events held elsewhere in Des Moines. At the Capitol, we were able to engage directly with lawmakers, and they had to acknowledge us and address our demands. The events that have happened at other locations are more easily ignored by the legislators.

37. I continue to feel very strongly about the Black Lives Matter movement and other social issues. The way that I connect with the Black Lives Matter community has been to have conversations about those issues at the Capitol.

38. On various occasions over the years, I have spent my lunch hours and other free time at the Capitol lobbying or speaking out on issues such as factory farming, women's rights, and indigenous rights. I have also scheduled meetings at the Capitol to speak with legislators on these issues. Because of the ban, I can no longer engage in any of these activities until January 1, 2021.

39. Before I was banned, I also used the Capitol Complex grounds for recreational purposes. I would regularly roller skate in that area, but now I am afraid to do so, because I do not want to accidentally enter an area that is part of the Capitol Complex grounds and get arrested. I also had to stop attending weekly yoga classes at the Capitol for the same reason. This has been difficult for me because it has limited my sense of community, and my ability to engage with others.

40. I feel that the ban has silenced my ability to engage in my community and express my opinions to our community leaders. I believe I was specifically banned because I supported the message of the Black Lives Matter movement. In all of my life living in Des Moines, I have never heard of other protesters being banned from the Capitol like we have been.

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

Executed this 2nd day of October, 2020


Brandi Sue Ramus

EXHIBIT A

Kim Reynolds
Governor
Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor



Stephan K. Bayens
Commissioner

Brandi Ramus
2583 E. Tiffin Ave
Des Moines, Ia. 50317

July 15th, 2020

Dear Ms. Ramus,

As a result of your actions and/or behavior towards citizen(s) and/or employee(s) of the State of Iowa on **July 1st, 2020**, any continued and future presence on or about the property after the date of this letter will not be welcome or tolerated. Pursuant to Section 716.8(1) of the Iowa Code, you are hereby notified that you are to abstain from entering upon any portion(s) of the property known as **1007 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319** including yards, parking areas, state owned streets and sidewalks, and all state owned facilities within the **Capitol Complex** grounds. Be advised that your entry upon any portion of the property after receiving this notice will constitute trespass, a criminal offense, and it will be reported to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

This admonition is continuing and perpetual until January 1st, 2021, and cannot be withdrawn prior to January 1st, 2021, except in writing by the Iowa Legislative Leadership or other future management staff. Please govern yourself accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyson Underwood", with the number "#527" written below it.

Sergeant Tyson Underwood #527

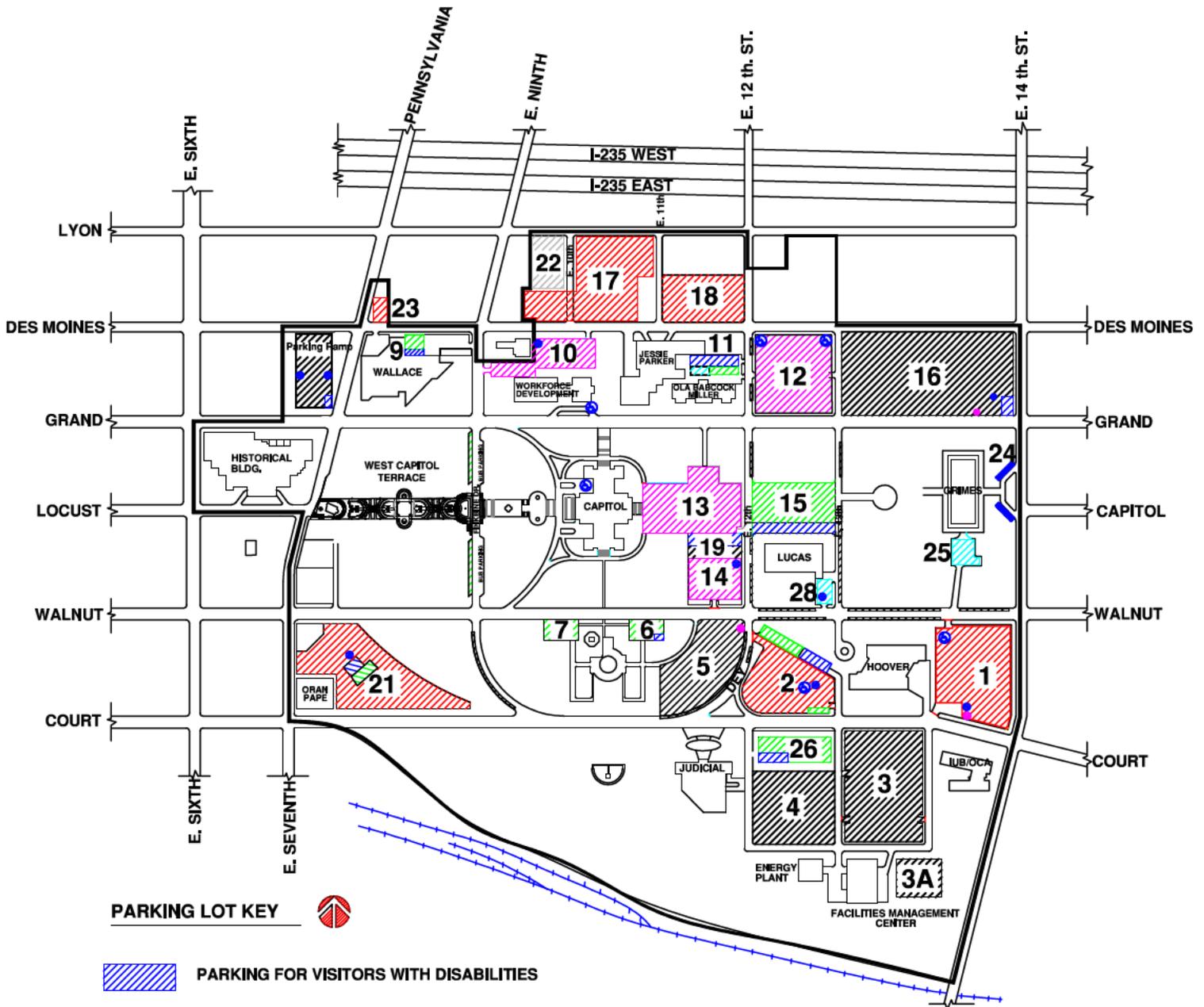
Assistant District Commander

Iowa State Patrol District 16

515-281-5608

cc: The Des Moines Police Department

IOWA CAPITOL COMPLEX



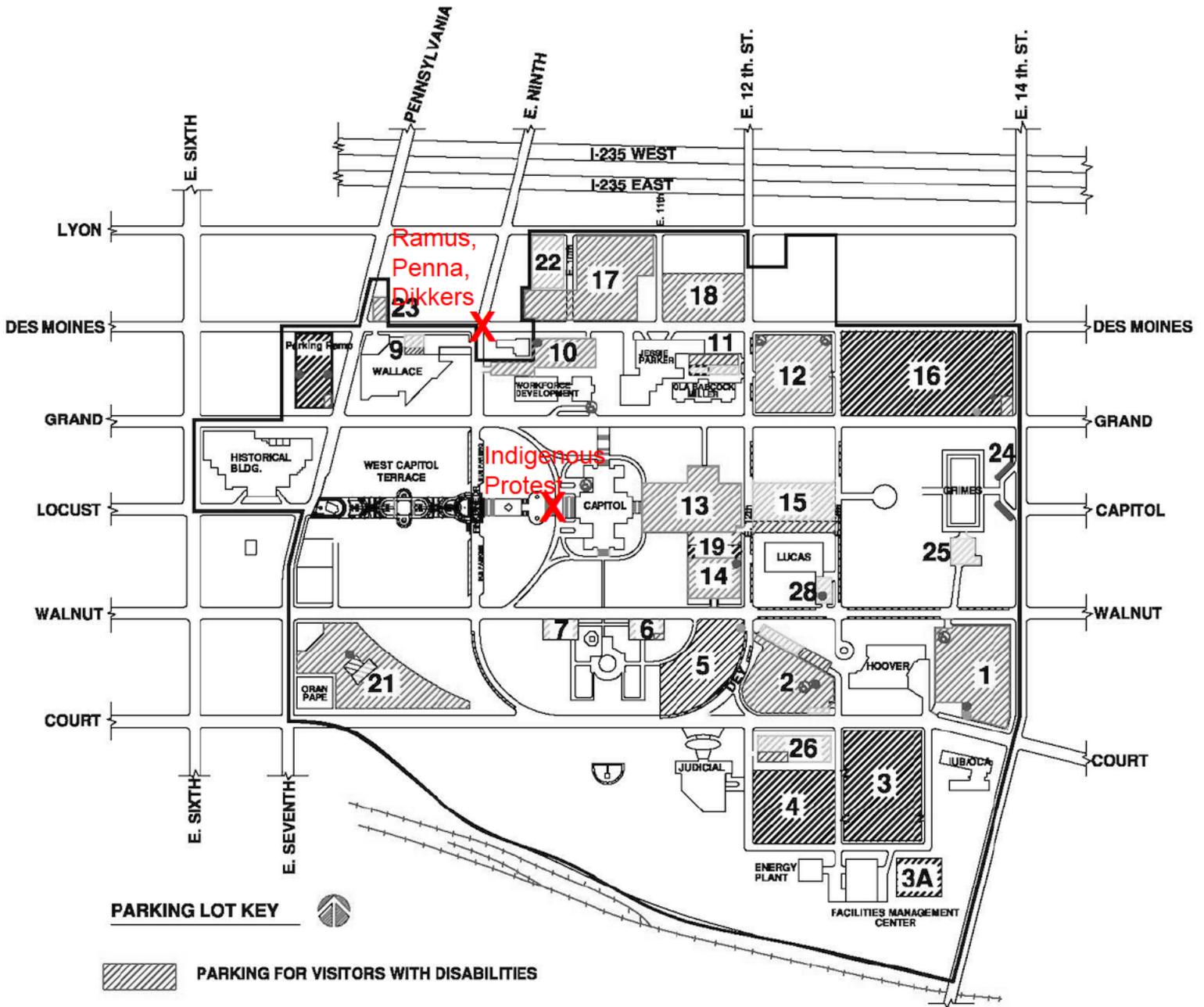
PARKING LOT KEY

-  PARKING FOR VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES
-  VISITOR PARKING
-  RESERVED / SERVICE PARKING
-  CONTRACTOR PARKING
-  EMPLOYEE ONLY
-  RESERVED EMPLOYEE
-  EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR PARKING
-  STREET PARKING (PLEASE OBSERVE POSTED HOURS FOR NO PARKING)
-  CARPOOL/RIDESHARE VEHICLE SPACES
-  MOTORCYCLE SPACES
-  PARKING FOR EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

ADDITIONAL ACCESSIBLE PARKING IS ALSO LOCATED IN EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR LOTS.
 UPDATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

IOWA CAPITOL COMPLEX

EXHIBIT C



PARKING LOT KEY

-  PARKING FOR VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES
-  VISITOR PARKING
-  RESERVED / SERVICE PARKING
-  CONTRACTOR PARKING
-  EMPLOYEE ONLY
-  RESERVED EMPLOYEE
-  EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR PARKING
-  STREET PARKING (PLEASE OBSERVE POSTED HOURS FOR NO PARKING)

- CARPOOL/RIDESHARE VEHICLE SPACES
- MOTORCYCLE SPACES
- ⊙ PARKING FOR EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

ADDITIONAL ACCESSIBLE PARKING IS ALSO LOCATED IN EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR LOTS.
 UPDATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2017



Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT D

State Capitol Protestors

32 messages

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] > Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM

To: charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov, jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov, jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov, amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov, waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov, jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov, randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov, dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov, janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov, amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov, joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov, bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov, pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov, liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov, herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov, rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov, pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov, John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov, matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov, Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov, Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov, dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov, Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov, Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov, todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov, jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov, Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov, Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov, brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov, sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

I am writing to all of you to inquire about the recent meeting you had on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 around 3pm. I was informed there was agreement made among all House and Senate leadership to ban a group of individuals from returning the Iowa State Capitol Complex effective until January 1, 2021. Among one of those individuals named would be myself, Brandi Ramus.

I just spoke with Senator Jack Whitver, who confirmed it was over a telephone conversation with Iowa State Patrol Post 16 and some other leadership members, he wasn't sure who. He referred me to contact Post 16 with further questions. Post 16 referred me to contact my house and senate members for more information. If this isn't the run around, I don't know what is.

Would someone please provide me a list of those persons on that phone call which resulted in a trespass order against myself?

Would someone please explain what led to this decision? Specifically, what did I do that would warrant me being banned from my state capitol?

How is this not infringing on my first amendment rights?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Last question, how do I appeal your decision? Post 16 said I haven't been charged with a crime, so there is not an appeal process. How can I be banned, if I haven't done anything wrong?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Brandi Ramus
[REDACTED]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] > Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:43 AM

To: [REDACTED]

All of those emails are our house and senate leaders. :)

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [redacted] >
To: [redacted]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:43 AM

All of those emails are our house and senate leaders. :)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brandi Ramus <[redacted]>
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM
Subject: State Capitol Protestors
To: <charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov>, <jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov>, <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, <jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov>, <randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, <amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov>, <joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>, <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, <liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov>, <herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>, <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>, <matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov>, <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>, <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, <Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov>, <jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>, <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>, <brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov>, <sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Taylor, Rich [LEGIS] <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [redacted] >

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 10:02 AM

Hi Brandi,

I am a Democrat State Senator. I am also an Assistant Minority Leader of the Democratic Senate Caucus. I was not invited to any such meeting. I also have not been advised of any such meeting or proceedings. It appears to me that Senator Whitver may not be telling you the entire truth or at least not everything he knows. It is my guess the Republican Majority Party allowed or requested this action. It is evident to me they are scared of the Public and rightfully so seeing all the nasty things they have done to the common people of Iowa. I will try to find an answer for you but I am doubtful that I receive the whole truth either. Have you been Officially served with any such order or are you just on a "secert list"? I would like to see that order if so including whom issued.

Rich

Senator Rich Taylor

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Brandi Ramus [redacted] >
[Quoted text hidden]

Thorup, Jon [LEGIS] <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [redacted] >

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 10:35 AM

Hi Brandi,

I can truthfully tell you that I was not in that meeting, and this is the first that I have heard about it.

However, I'm happy to find out more if I can.

I do need a bit more information though.

Can I get you to take a picture of the trespass order, and send it to me in an email?

That way I can track down exactly who made the decision. That would help me to get answers for you.

Thanks,

Jon

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 8, 2020, at 09:40, Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] > wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>
To: "Taylor, Rich [LEGIS]" <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 11:55 AM

Thank you Senator Taylor for responding to me.

I contact Post 16 daily asking for an update on my written notification regarding being banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex. Today Sergeant Underwood told me they are in the process of writing a written notification. He could not advise me as to when that may be done or about who is writing it.

I also asked for specific streets and sidewalks I am banned from.

Sergeant Underwood told me -

You can find that out yourself, there are some public sidewalks within the Capitol Complex but I wouldn't stop on them. If you keep walking, no one will bother you.

I think it's a "secret list" and I am thinking it's an illegal or unconstitutional list.

I also agree, Senator Whitver didn't give me his whole truth. He very much just kept referring me to contact Post 16.

I will forward the order to you if I ever receive one.

I feel like my state government is trying to silence a certain group of people. And this scares me.

Your help with this matter is greatly appreciated!

Brandi

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>
To: "Thorup, Jon [LEGIS]" <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 12:05 PM

Thank you for your email Mr. Thorup. I appreciate you taking the time.

I do not have a lot of information about this meeting either. I also do not have a written trespass order. I contact Post 16 daily to inquire about this written notice. Today Sargeant Underwood advised me the written notice is being written. He could not tell me who was writing it or when I could expect it. He did reiterate several times though, that I have been notified of the trespass order and if I step onto Iowa State Capitol Complex grounds I will be charged with criminal trespass. I have asked many many times about an appeal process, everytime I am told there is no appeal process, I haven't been charged with anything to appeal. This is very confusing to me.

I also asked the sergeant today for details regarding exactly where I am banned from. He told me to find that information myself. He said I am banned from all Capitol Complex grounds, however some sidewalks are public but

he will not tell me which. He did say I can walk down the sidewalk on Grand, but advised me to not stop or I would be "messed with".

I am afraid my state government may be trying to silence a certain group of people because they do not like the message. This is unconstitutional.
Please help me to understand what is happening and what I did to deserve this. Thank you again!

Brandi
[Quoted text hidden]

Taylor, Rich [LEGIS] <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 12:16 PM

Thanks Brandi. I will see what I can find out. Rich

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

----- Original message -----
From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]
Date: 7/8/20 11:55 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Taylor, Rich [LEGIS]" <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors

Thank you Senator Taylor for responding to me.

I contact Post 16 daily asking for an update on my written notification regarding being banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex. Today Sergeant Underwood told me they are in the process of writing a written notification. He could not advise me as to when that may be done or about who is writing it.

I also asked for specific streets and sidewalks I am banned from.
Sergeant Underwood told me -
You can find that out yourself, there are some public sidewalks within the Capitol Complex but I wouldn't stop on them. If you keep walking, no one will bother you.

I think it's a "secret list" and I am thinking it's an illegal or unconstitutional list.
I also agree, Senator Whitver didn't give me his whole truth. He very much just kept referring me to contact Post 16.

I will forward the order to you if I ever receive one.

I feel like my state government is trying to silence a certain group of people. And this scares me.
Your help with this matter is greatly appreciated!

Brandi
[Quoted text hidden]

Thorup, Jon [LEGIS] <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 12:38 PM

Here's what we do. If you don't have that document within a week from now, I can inquire about it. If you do get it within a week, then I'll have something better to work with.

Either way, remind me next Wednesday, or earlier of you get it earlier.

Does that work?

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Thorup, Jon [LEGIS] <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors

Thank you for your email Mr. Thorup. I appreciate you taking the time.

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] >

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 1:35 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM
Subject: State Capitol Protestors
To: <charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov>, <jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov>, <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, <jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov>, <randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, <amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov>, <joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>, <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, <liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov>, <herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>, <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>, <matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov>, <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>, <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, <Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov>, <jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>, <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>, <brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov>, <sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 1:36 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 11:55 AM
Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors
To: Taylor, Rich [LEGIS] <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
To: [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 1:36 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Taylor, Rich [LEGIS] <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>

Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 10:02 AM

Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 1:37 PM

To: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 12:05 PM

Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 1:59 PM

To: claire.celsi@gmail.com

Hello Sentator Celsi.

I was given your name and email as someone that may be able to help me with this situation, regarding myself and others being banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex. I am forwarding you the email I sent to the leaders of the Senate and House this morning. I have only received a couple responses and still no one has any further details for me. Is this something you can help me with? Or can you point me in the right direction?

Thank you in advance for your help!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Subject: State Capitol Protestors

To: <charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov>, <jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov>, <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, <jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov>, <randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, <amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov>, <joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>, <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, <liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov>, <herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>, <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>, <matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov>, <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>, <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, <Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov>, <jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>, <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>, <brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov>, <sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 2:32 PM

To: claire.celsi@gmail.com

I forgot to mention, I was given your contact information from Kirk Johnson. He mentioned that you are already looking into some BLM concerns. The day I was arrested and banned from the capitol was because I am in support of Black Lives Matter. I just wanted to make sure I clarify the connection there.

Thank you again for your time.

Brandi

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]
 To: "Thorup, Jon [LEGIS]" <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 2:43 PM

I am going to patiently wait for the written notice. However, I do feel uncomfortable allowing the Senate and/or House leaders two or more weeks to put into writing a decision they made in a matter of hours.

The day I was informed, it was maybe a 60 second long interaction with a State Trooper. He told four of us in the vehicle that we were banned from the capitol complex along with everyone else in the back. He told us to get with another arrested person for the details. I asked for this order in writing several times. This all happened before we even left the police vehicle. At this point I still didn't even know what I was being charged with or why I was in police custody at all. The decision to ban me and this group was swift, and apparently very secretive. I am concerned with this.

I do appreciate any time you can allocate to this matter. Thank you again.

Brandi Ramus
 [Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
 To: [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 2:46 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandi Ramus** [REDACTED] >
 [Quoted text hidden]
 [Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
 To: [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 2:47 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

Mathis, Liz [LEGIS] <Liz.Mathis@legis.iowa.gov>
 To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 4:31 PM

Brandi – this is the first I am hearing of this.

Senator Mathis

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
 Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:40 AM
 To: Schneider, Charles [LEGIS] <Charles.Schneider@legis.iowa.gov>; Behn, Jerry [LEGIS] <Jerry.Behn@legis.iowa.gov>; Whitver, Jack [LEGIS] <Jack.Whitver@legis.iowa.gov>; Sinclair, Amy [LEGIS] <Amy.Sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>; Brown, Waylon [LEGIS] <Waylon.Brown@legis.iowa.gov>; Chapman, Jake [LEGIS] <Jake.Chapman@legis.iowa.gov>; Feenstra, Randy [LEGIS] <Randy.Feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>; Zumbach, Dan [LEGIS] <Dan.Zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>; Petersen, Janet [LEGIS] <Janet.Petersen@legis.iowa.gov>; Ragan, Amanda [LEGIS] <Amanda.Ragan@legis.iowa.gov>; Bolkcom, Joe [LEGIS] <Joe.Bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>; Dotzler, Bill [LEGIS] <Bill.Dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>; Jochum, Pam [LEGIS] <Pam.Jochum@legis.iowa.gov>; Mathis, Liz [LEGIS] <Liz.Mathis@legis.iowa.gov>; Quirmbach, Herman [LEGIS] <Herman.Quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov>; Taylor, Rich [LEGIS] <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>; Grassley, Pat [LEGIS] <Pat.Grassley@legis.iowa.gov>; Wills, John [LEGIS] <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>; Windschitl, Matt [LEGIS] <Matt.Windschitl@legis.iowa.gov>; Sexton, Mike

[LEGIS] <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>; Brink, Holly [LEGIS] <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>; Huseman, Dan [LEGIS] <Dan.Huseman@legis.iowa.gov>; Thorup, Jon [LEGIS] <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>; Zumbach, Louie [LEGIS] <Louie.Zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>; Prichard, Todd [LEGIS] <Todd.Prichard@legis.iowa.gov>; Oldson, Jo [LEGIS] <Jo.Oldson@legis.iowa.gov>; Konfrst, Jennifer [LEGIS] <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>; McConkey, Charlie [LEGIS] <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>; Meyer, Brian [LEGIS] <Brian.Meyer@legis.iowa.gov>; Steckman, Sharon [LEGIS] <Sharon.Steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

Subject: State Capitol Protestors

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

[Quoted text hidden]

Prichard, Todd [LEGIS] <Todd.Prichard@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 11:11 AM

Ms Ramus,

I am not aware of any meeting or action you refer to.

Todd

From: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:40:15 AM

To: Schneider, Charles [LEGIS]; Behn, Jerry [LEGIS]; Whitver, Jack [LEGIS]; Sinclair, Amy [LEGIS]; Brown, Waylon [LEGIS]; Chapman, Jake [LEGIS]; Feenstra, Randy [LEGIS]; Zumbach, Dan [LEGIS]; Petersen, Janet [LEGIS]; Ragan, Amanda [LEGIS]; Bolkcom, Joe [LEGIS]; Dotzler, Bill [LEGIS]; Jochum, Pam [LEGIS]; Mathis, Liz [LEGIS]; Quirnbach, Herman [LEGIS]; Taylor, Rich [LEGIS]; Grassley, Pat [LEGIS]; Wills, John [LEGIS]; Windschitl, Matt [LEGIS]; Sexton, Mike [LEGIS]; Brink, Holly [LEGIS]; Huseman, Dan [LEGIS]; Thorup, Jon [LEGIS]; Zumbach, Louie [LEGIS]; Prichard, Todd [LEGIS]; Oldson, Jo [LEGIS]; Konfrst, Jennifer [LEGIS]; McConkey, Charlie [LEGIS]; Meyer, Brian [LEGIS]; Steckman, Sharon [LEGIS]

Subject: State Capitol Protestors

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
To: [REDACTED] >

Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 1:10 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandi Ramus** [REDACTED] >

Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Subject: State Capitol Protestors

To: <charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov>, <jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov>, <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, <jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov>, <randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, <amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov>, <joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>, <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, <liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov>, <herman.quirnbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>, <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>, <matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov>, <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>, <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, <Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov>, <jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>, <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>, <brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov>, <sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>
To: "Thorup, Jon [LEGIS]" <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 11:54 AM

Hello again Mr. Thorup.

I still have not heard any new information regarding my situation. I have also not received any documentation.

Do you have any information to share with me?

Thank you for your time.

Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 12:39 PM

To: charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov, jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov, jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov, amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov, waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov, jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov, randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov, dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov, janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov, amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov, joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov, bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov, pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov, liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov, herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov, "Taylor, Rich [LEGIS]" <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov, John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov, matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov, Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov, Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov, dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov, "Thorup, Jon [LEGIS]" <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov, todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov, jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov, Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov, Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov, brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov, sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

I am following up with all of you because I have not received answers to my questions. I have also not seen any official documentation regarding this matter.

According to Sergeant Moses with Post 16, he can't share with me who is authorizing this trespass ban, he has no order to read to me, and he cannot tell me when it will be done. However, he was able to tell me that I am banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex until January 1, 2021.

Would someone please answer the questions I asked last week?

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]
To: "rick.olson@legis.iowa.gov" <rick.olson@legis.iowa.gov>

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 5:26 PM

Dear Mr. Olson,

My name is Brandi Ramus.

My address is [REDACTED].

I need your help with this urgent matter. I am attaching two emails regarding myself and several others being banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex. This trespass ban apparently came into effect after a phone call on July 1, 2020. I still have not received anything in writing. Nor can Post 16 provide me with any details.

I am very concerned that my state government officials are imposing unconstitutional bans on me and then ignoring my questions for clarity. I am afraid there are things going on behind closed doors with the purpose of silencing the Black Lives Matter movement.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Brandi Ramus

[Redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandi Ramus** [Redacted] >

Date: Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 12:39 PM

Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[Redacted]>
To: "Taylor, Rich [LEGIS]" <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>

Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 7:44 AM

Good morning Senator Taylor.

Have you been able to find out any further information regarding this?

If not, do you have any advice for me?

Is there someone else I can reach out to that I haven't thought of?

Thank you in advance.

Brandi Ramus

On Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 10:02 AM Taylor, Rich [LEGIS] <Rich.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Schneider, Charles [LEGIS] <Charles.Schneider@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [Redacted] >

Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 1:02 PM

Hi Brandi,

I was not on the call you referred to below and don't have enough information about your situation to answer any of your questions.

Charles Schneider

Iowa State Senator

State Capitol

Des Moines, IA 50319

(515) 281-3371

(Jan. - May)

From: Brandi Ramus <[Redacted]>

Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 12:39 PM

To: Schneider, Charles [LEGIS]; Behn, Jerry [LEGIS]; Whitver, Jack [LEGIS]; Sinclair, Amy [LEGIS]; Brown, Waylon [LEGIS]; Chapman, Jake [LEGIS]; Feenstra, Randy [LEGIS]; Zumbach, Dan [LEGIS]; Petersen, Janet [LEGIS]; Ragan, Amanda [LEGIS]; Bolkcom, Joe [LEGIS]; Dotzler, Bill [LEGIS]; Jochum, Pam [LEGIS]; Mathis, Liz [LEGIS]; Quirnbach, Herman [LEGIS]; Taylor, Rich [LEGIS]; Grassley, Pat [LEGIS]; Wills, John [LEGIS]; Windschitl, Matt [LEGIS]; Sexton, Mike [LEGIS]; Brink, Holly [LEGIS]; Huseman, Dan [LEGIS]; Thorup, Jon [LEGIS]; Zumbach, Louie [LEGIS]; Prichard, Todd [LEGIS]; Oldson, Jo [LEGIS]; Konfrst, Jennifer [LEGIS]; McConkey, Charlie [LEGIS]; Meyer,

Brian [LEGIS]; Steckman, Sharon [LEGIS]
Subject: Re: State Capitol Protestors

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

I am following up with all of you because I have not received answers to my questions. I have also not seen any official documentation regarding this matter.

According to Sergeant Moses with Post 16, he can't share with me who is authorizing this trespass ban, he has no order to read to me, and he cannot tell me when it will be done. However, he was able to tell me that I am banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex until January 1, 2021.

Would someone please answer the questions I asked last week?

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.
Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

Jochum, Pam [LEGIS] <Pam.Jochum@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 9:06 AM

I was not on that call. Assuming it was Republican leaders. If democratic leaders were included , it would have been Janet Petersen and Todd Pritchard. You will need to check with them. Sorry I cannot be of more help.

Sent from my iPhone
Pam Jochum
563-580-2980

On Jul 15, 2020, at 12:39 PM, Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

I am following up with all of you because I have not received answers to my questions. I have also not seen any official documentation regarding this matter.

According to Sergeant Moses with Post 16, he can't share with me who is authorizing this trespass ban, he has no order to read to me, and he cannot tell me when it will be done. However, he was able to tell me that I am banned from the Iowa State Capitol Complex until January 1, 2021.

Would someone please answer the questions I asked last week?

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.
Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED] >

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:11 AM

This is my original email to the entire Iowa Legislature Leadership.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandi Ramus** [REDACTED] >

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Emily Rice <[redacted]>
To: Brandi Ramus <[redacted]>

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:21 AM

Thanks, Brandi!

My goal is to get the letters and the results of the survey compiled (today or tomorrow) and then I can share with you so you can pass along to those you are communicating with. I'm also happy to touch base and strategize the best way to disseminate these letters and information. I don't want to overcomplicate things, but I do want to coordinate if that will strengthen our position.

Emily
[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[redacted]>

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:22 AM

To: [redacted]
[redacted]

Follow up with everyone.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brandi Ramus <[redacted]>

Date: Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 12:39 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[redacted]>

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:31 AM

To: Emily Rice <[redacted]>

Awesome! Thank you Emily!

I have more emails, do want me to continue sending them to you? I'm sorry there's so many, I just wanted to make sure everyone knows who has said what.

Let me know if I can help in any way! Also I will attach my letter.

Brandi

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Epson_07192020052930.pdf**
1511K

Emily Rice <[redacted]>
To: Brandi Ramus <[redacted]>

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:33 AM

Thanks, Brandi. Sure send those my way. I think it's helpful. Before I send anything I'll check in and we can coordinate the best way to disseminate. Because we don't want them to fix this for one or two of us - we want to fix this for everyone.

[Quoted text hidden]



Brandi Ramus <brandiramus@gmail.com>

State Capitol Complex public sidewalks

3 messages

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 2:21 PM

To: CustServ.GSE@iowa.gov, Scott.Gustafson@iowa.gov, ispinfo@dps.state.ia.us

Hello.

I am not sure who can answer this question. I was directed to you by either Post 16 or Michelle at DAS. I am looking for a map or list of the public sidewalks vs the private sidewalks inside the Iowa State Capitol Complex. It is my understanding per Trooper Hillier(unsure on the spelling - badge #102) that there are public sidewalks within the Iowa State Capitol Complex.

I have recently been told I am banned from visiting our state capitol, except I am allowed on these public sidewalks within the complex.

Could you please outline for me which sidewalks are public? If not, could you point me in the right direction?

Any help on the matter would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you in advance.

Brandi Ramus
[REDACTED]

DAS Customer Service - GSE <CustServ.GSE@iowa.gov>

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 3:55 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Brandi, your request for information was received. We are currently reviewing and will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you,

DAS General Services Enterprise

custserv.gse@iowa.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 11:29 AM

To: DAS Customer Service - GSE <CustServ.GSE@iowa.gov>

Hello again.

I would like to follow up on my previous email. Has someone been able to review my questions?

Thank you for your time.

Brandi

[Quoted text hidden]



Brandi Ramus [REDACTED]

Regarding our conversation this week

3 messages

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 1:11 PM

To: "nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov" <nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov>

Senator Boulton I want to thank you for taking the time to chat with me earlier this week.

I have done some further research and found the decision to issue a trespass order against myself and the other people arrested at the Iowa State Capitol Complex grounds was made by the Leaders of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives.

I was fortunate enough to speak with Senator Whitver over the phone yesterday. He confirmed he was part of the phone call that resulted in myself being banned from visiting the Iowa State Capitol Complex. I then had further questions about that call that he said he did not know the details of. So I decided to email and ask the entire leadership committee.

I am forwarding you the email I sent to the Leaders of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives. I have only received a few responses as of this afternoon. All of which have said, this is the first time they are hearing of this. So I am led to believe it wasn't all members of leadership on that call.

Senator Boulton, would you please help me get my questions answered?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Brandi Ramus
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandi Ramus** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Subject: State Capitol Protestors

To: <charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov>, <jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov>, <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, <jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov>, <randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, <amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov>, <joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>, <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, <liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov>, <herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>, <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>, <matt.windschittl@legis.iowa.gov>, <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>, <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, <Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov>, <jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>, <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>, <brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov>, <sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

I am writing to all of you to inquire about the recent meeting you had on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 around 3pm. I was informed there was agreement made among all House and Senate leadership to ban a group of individuals from returning the Iowa State Capitol Complex effective until January 1, 2021. Among one of those individuals named would be myself, Brandi Ramus.

I just spoke with Senator Jack Whitver, who confirmed it was over a telephone conversation with Iowa State Patrol Post 16 and some other leadership members, he wasn't sure who.

He referred me to contact Post 16 with further questions.

Post 16 referred me to contact my house and senate members for more information.

If this isn't the run around, I don't know what is.

Would someone please provide me a list of those persons on that phone call which resulted in a trespass order against myself?

Would someone please explain what led to this decision? Specifically, what did I do that would warrant me being banned from my state capitol?

How is this not infringing on my first amendment rights?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Last question, how do I appeal your decision? Post 16 said I haven't been charged with a crime, so there is not an appeal process. How can I be banned, if I haven't done anything wrong?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Brandi Ramus

[Redacted]

Brandi Ramus [Redacted] >

Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 8:21 AM

To: "nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov" <nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov>

Hello Senator Boulton,

I received a certified letter on Stephan K. Bayens' letterhead, signed by Sergeant Tyson Underwood #527. I will attach the letter.

I am still convinced it is not within the bounds of Post 16 to issue a trespass ban against me regarding the Iowa State Capitol Complex. I am interested in knowing what other circumstances have ended in a citizen being trespass banned from the capitol complex. I am also interested in having my initial questions answered by the Iowa Legislative Leadership. Have you had any luck in finding out any information?

The wording on the letter makes it sound like I am already guilty of a crime. I am not.

I would like for you to please help me with this please. Quickly if possible.

Thank you.

Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Epson_07192020052930.pdf**
1511K

Boulton, Nate [LEGIS] <Nate.Boulton@legis.iowa.gov>

Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 8:26 AM

To: Brandi Ramus [Redacted] >

Thanks for sending this. It will be helpful for me to find out more now that there is formal documentation.

Nate Boulton
Iowa State Senator
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319<x-apple-data-detectors://2/0>

Senate Phone: 515-281-3371<tel:515-281-3371>

Cellular Phone: 515-669-4259<tel:515-669-4259>

nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov<mailto:nate.boulton@legis.iowa.gov>

<http://www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/boulton>

*Please excuse any errors as this message was sent from my mobile phone.

On Jul 23, 2020, at 8:22 AM, Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello Senator Boulton,

I received a certified letter on Stephan K. Bayens' letterhead, signed by Sergeant Tyson Underwood #527. I will attach the letter.

I am still convinced it is not within the bounds of Post 16 to issue a trespass ban against me regarding the Iowa State Capitol Complex. I am interested in knowing what other circumstances have ended in a citizen being trespass banned from the capitol complex. I am also interested in having my initial questions answered by the Iowa Legislative Leadership. Have you had any luck in finding out any information?

The wording on the letter makes it sound like I am already guilty of a crime. I am not.

I would like for you to please help me with this please. Quickly if possible.

Thank you.

Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

<Epson_07192020052930.pdf>



Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>

Unjust ban from the Iowa Capitol Complex

6 messages

Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 3:44 PM

To: ruthann.gaines@legis.iowa.gov

Dear Representative Gaines,

I am a constituent in your district. My address is 2583 E Tiffin Ave, Des Moines IA 50317. I am writing to you today to ask for your help with a matter regarding my first amendment rights.

I have recently been told there is an order to ban me from visiting our state capitol. I have no details on this ban and I have seen nothing in writing about it.

I am attaching the email I sent to the Leaders of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives. The reason I sent this email was because Senator Whitver told me he was a part of the telephone conversation that resulted in myself and other people being told we were banned from visiting the Iowa State Capitol Complex.

I have only received a few responses as of this afternoon. All of which have said, this is the first time they are hearing of this. So I am led to believe it wasn't all members of leadership on that call.

Representative Gaines, would you please help me get my questions answered?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Brandi Ramus
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brandi Ramus** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 9:40 AM

Subject: State Capitol Protestors

To: <charles.schneider@legis.iowa.gov>, <jerry.behn@legis.iowa.gov>, <jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov>, <amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov>, <waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov>, <jake.chapman@legis.iowa.gov>, <randy.feenstra@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <janet.petersen@legis.iowa.gov>, <amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov>, <joe.bolkcom@legis.iowa.gov>, <bill.dotzler@legis.iowa.gov>, <pam.jochum@legis.iowa.gov>, <liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov>, <herman.quirmbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov>, <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>, <John.Wills@legis.iowa.gov>, <matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov>, <Mike.Sexton@legis.iowa.gov>, <Holly.Brink@legis.iowa.gov>, <dan.huseman@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jon.Thorup@legis.iowa.gov>, <Louie.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov>, <todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov>, <jo.oldson@legis.iowa.gov>, <Jennifer.Konfrst@legis.iowa.gov>, <Charlie.McConkey@legis.iowa.gov>, <brian.meyer@legis.iowa.gov>, <sharon.steckman@legis.iowa.gov>

Dear State Senators and House Representatives,

I am writing to all of you to inquire about the recent meeting you had on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 around 3pm. I was informed there was agreement made among all House and Senate leadership to ban a group of individuals from returning the Iowa State Capitol Complex effective until January 1, 2021. Among one of those individuals named would be myself, Brandi Ramus.

I just spoke with Senator Jack Whitver, who confirmed it was over a telephone conversation with Iowa State Patrol Post 16 and some other leadership members, he wasn't sure who.

He referred me to contact Post 16 with further questions.

Post 16 referred me to contact my house and senate members for more information.

If this isn't the run around, I don't know what is.

Would someone please provide me a list of those persons on that phone call which resulted in a trespass order against myself?

Would someone please explain what led to this decision? Specifically, what did I do that would warrant me being banned from my state capitol?

How is this not infringing on my first amendment rights?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Last question, how do I appeal your decision? Post 16 said I haven't been charged with a crime, so there is not an appeal process. How can I be banned, if I haven't done anything wrong?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Brandi Ramus
[REDACTED]

Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS] <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
Cc: "Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS]" <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>

Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 7:40 PM

Hi Brandi,

I tried calling you but your mailbox is full. I am not aware of any ban on you or anyone else visiting the capital. I will make some calls to find out where this may have come from and get back to you.

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
To: "Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS]" <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>

Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 2:54 PM

Hello Ms. Gaines,

Thank you for responding to me. I am sorry I missed your call yesterday.

I would very much appreciate your help in getting my questions answered. I am available most of the day today, if you would like to call me. I am also happy to email if that works better for you.

Thank you again.

Brandi Ramus

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
To: "Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS]" <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>

Sun, Jul 19, 2020 at 10:01 AM

Good morning Ms. Gaines.

I received a certified letter yesterday on Stephan K. Bayens' letterhead, signed by Sergeant Tyson Underwood #527. I will attach the letter.

I am still convinced it is not within the bounds of Post 16 to issue a trespass ban against me regarding the Iowa State Capitol Complex. I am interested in knowing what other circumstances have ended in a citizen being trespass banned from the capitol complex. I am also interested in having my initial questions answered by the Iowa Legislative Leadership. Have you had any luck in finding out any information?

The wording on the ban makes it sound like I am already guilty of a crime. However, I am confident that my charges will be dismissed, or in the worst case scenario, I will be found not guilty by a jury. I was charged with a simple misdemeanor, Interference with official acts. My hands were full, one hand had my phone for recording law enforcement and the other hand had a bag full of mask and hand sanitizer for anyone that needed it. I was in no way violent or interfering. I touched no one.

I did however, criticize law enforcement, not with curse words, but with words that I believe to be true like racist and brutality and fascism. I used words and my camera, no violence.

I do not want anyone to be hurting or suffering. That is why I show up at the capitol and other places in our community to show my support for Black Lives Matter. I was there on July 1, 2020 to document and film the police. I did not in any way go with the intention of being arrested or causing problems. I wore slide sandals that would clearly not be good for a running situation. Another gal that was arrested was on her lunch break, she definitely did not plan for this. We were there to support, protect and document.

I want the black and brown people in my community to have a safe place to speak up. I want law enforcement to stop trying to silence this movement and stop being so brutal with our citizens. I want my elected state officials to protect us and stop allowing this systematic silencing and racism.

I was there at the capitol that day and continue to be where I am needed, to help make sure my black and brown community stays safe and has space to be heard. Several of those girls that were arrested the same day as me are the ages of my daughters. They were abused, not other ways to cut it. And I am disgusted everyday that I think about how those girls were treated. The entire experience has caused me nightmares and paranoia that is out of this world. I can't imagine what these young people must be feeling. Some of them under the age of 18. If I can't do anything to stop it from happening, I will at least go with them and be a supportive adult to talk to them while they cry. This has gone too far, enough is enough. Ms. Gaines I really hope you can help me and everyone else this impacts.

Brandi

On Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 7:40 PM Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS] <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

 Epson_07192020052930.pdf
1511K

Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS] <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>

Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 11:52 AM

To: Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >

Cc: "Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS]" <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>

Hi Brandi,

You did not explain to me in your initial questions that you are a member of the Black Lives Matter group that was banned from the capital. Now I have to go back to administration with further questioning. Please give me 2 or 3 days to investigate.

On Jul 19, 2020 10:01 AM, Brandi Ramus <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good morning Ms. Gaines.

I received a certified letter yesterday on Stephan K. Bayens' letterhead, signed by Sergeant Tyson Underwood #527. I will attach the letter.

I am still convinced it is not within the bounds of Post 16 to issue a trespass ban against me regarding the Iowa State Capitol Complex. I am interested in knowing what other circumstances have ended in a citizen being trespass banned from the capitol complex. I am also interested in having my initial questions answered by the Iowa Legislative Leadership. Have you had any luck in finding out any information?

The wording on the ban makes it sound like I am already guilty of a crime. However, I am confident that my charges will be dismissed, or in the worst case scenario, I will be found not guilty by a jury. I was charged with a simple misdemeanor, Interference with official acts. My hands were full, one hand had my phone for recording law enforcement and the other hand had a bag full of mask and hand sanitizer for anyone that needed it. I was in no way violent or interfering. I touched no one.

I did however, criticize law enforcement, not with curse words, but with words that I believe to be true like racist and

I do not want anyone to be hurting or suffering. That is why I show up at the capitol and other places in our community to show my support for Black Lives Matter. I was there on July 1, 2020 to document and film the police. I did not in any way go with the intention of being arrested or causing problems. I wore slide sandals that would clearly not be good for a running situation. Another gal that was arrested was on her lunch break, she definitely did not plan for this. We were there to support, protect and document.

I want the black and brown people in my community to have a safe place to speak up. I want law enforcement to stop trying to silence this movement and stop being so brutal with our citizens. I want my elected state officials to protect us and stop allowing this systematic silencing and racism.

I was there at the capitol that day and continue to be where I am needed, to help make sure my black and brown community stays safe and has space to be heard. Several of those girls that were arrested the same day as me are the ages of my daughters. They were abused, not other ways to cut it. And I am disgusted everyday that I think about how those girls were treated. The entire experience has caused me nightmares and paranoia that is out of this world. I can't imagine what these young people must be feeling. Some of them under the age of 18. If I can't do anything to stop it from happening, I will at least go with them and be a supportive adult to talk to them while they cry. This has gone too far, enough is enough. Ms. Gaines I really hope you can help me and everyone else this impacts.

Brandi

On Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 7:40 PM Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS] <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

Hi Brandi,

I tried calling you but your mailbox is full. I am not aware of any ban on you or anyone else visiting the capital. I will make some calls to find out where this may have come from and get back to you.

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Ramus [REDACTED] >
To: "Gaines, Ruth Ann [LEGIS]" <RuthAnn.Gaines@legis.iowa.gov>

Tue, Jul 28, 2020 at 11:30 AM

Hello Ms. Gaines.

I just wanted to follow up.

Have you been able to find out who was on the conference call that authorized this ban?

Brandi

[Quoted text hidden]

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date, I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of Court by using the CM/ECF system.

The foregoing paper will also be served along with the Complaint and Summons to all Defendants.

Date: October 5, 2020

/s/Rita Bettis Austen
Rita Bettis Austen