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Police Urge Protestors to Act Responsibly

In the wake of the recent grand jury decisions in Ferguson, Mo. and New York protestors have taken to the streets of New Brunswick to voice their concerns.

While respecting everyone’s right to free speech and assembly, members of the New Brunswick Police Chaplains Group have asked protesters to stay off major highways in the course of their demonstrations, as the disruption of traffic along these routes is not only a danger to the protestors themselves, but also puts the whole community at risk.

During a recent protest, participants marched onto Route 27 and Route 18, two major roadways in New Brunswick. While these roads were blocked, an ambulance transporting a patient to Saint Peters University Hospital was stopped in traffic and unable to proceed to the hospital.

At the same time, a New Brunswick fire truck was significantly slowed down in its response to an emergency call when it encountered gridlock in the City. If emergency vehicles are prevented from rapidly responding to emergency calls, the results can be deadly.

After meeting with members of the police department the New Brunswick Police Chaplains Group issued the following formal statement:

“Responding to the recent grand jury decisions in Ferguson, Mo. and New York City the nation has seen reactions ranging from peaceful and constructive to violent and destructive. When protestors march down a busy thoroughfare like Route 27 or Route 18, they not only put themselves in danger, but also jeopardize the safety of the whole community. By disrupting traffic along these busy highways, ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles are slowed down or prevented from responding to an emergency. We recognize and respect everyone’s right to protest and urge anyone who chooses to participate to please act responsibly and do so in a safe and orderly manner.”
The New Brunswick Police Department will provide assistance to any group who wishes to protest or march in New Brunswick. The police department will work with organizers to provide a safe and secure route through the City so that participants may express their views without endangering themselves or others.

When individuals decide to march on a highway such as Route 27 or Route 18, lives are put in danger. The police department is obligated to take action and prevent such dangerous situations from occurring. Let the police department help you with your protest or march and avoid dangerous situations. Event organizers are asked to contact Captain Vincent Sabo at (732) 745-5238 or Sergeant Raymond Trigg at (732) 745-5280 for assistance.

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