



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 7, 2003

TO: [REDACTED]
Commander - South Service Area

FROM: [REDACTED]
Administrative Lieutenant - South Service Area

SUBJECT: SUMMARY - SUPPORT TROOPS & ANTI-WAR RALLIES

On April 5, 2003, there were two separate war related rallies scheduled for Veteran's Memorial Park. The first event was a support the troops rally sponsored by American Legion Post #2, scheduled to begin at 1330 hours. This event was canceled due to inclement weather. The organizer, Bill Brinkman, initially anticipated a crowd of over 2,000 participants, however, only fifty showed up in the bad weather. Four officers monitored the small group, which gathered for approximately one hour. Afterwards, the participants left the park without any problems. There were no signs of any opposing groups at this rally. The event organizer has tentatively re-scheduled this event for April 12, 2003.

The second event was an Anti-War rally organized by the People's Alliance for Justice and Change that started at 1800 hours. There were fifty participants who gathered and talked about the negative aspects of the war in Iraq. At 1830 hours they began marching to DeVos Hall. Several officers were assigned to walk along with the marchers to ensure that they followed all traffic laws. The crowd was orderly and complied with the law and our instructions. Once they arrived at DeVos Hall, they set up on the east side of Monroe and handed out anti-war leaflets to people arriving for the Grand Rapids Symphony's presentation of "Mendelssohn's Elijah". Once again, the protestors completely complied with our instructions and did not hinder the egress or ingress of people using DeVos Hall. Overall, the event went well with no incidents or arrests.

Cc: [REDACTED]