

THE
ROGER
BALDWIN
FOUNDATION
OF ACLU,
INC.

SUITE 2300
180 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60601-1287
T: 312-201-9740
F: 312-201-9760
WWW.ACLU-IL.ORG



March 11, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Michael Amiridis, Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
1200 West Harrison St.
Chicago, Illinois 60607
chancellor@uic.edu

Dear Chancellor Amiridis:

The ACLU of Illinois is concerned about the safety and civil liberties of those attending the Donald Trump campaign rally at the UIC Pavilion today. There have been reports of a number of disturbing incidents at Trump rallies in recent days, including on college campuses. In particular, students have reportedly been removed from rallies for unclear reasons and on unclear authority. We urge you to take public, proactive steps to minimize the likelihood of civil liberties violations at today's rally.

First, students and others attending the rally should know in advance what conduct could lead to their exclusion or removal. To the extent that the Trump campaign gives advance directives to campus police about excluding certain groups, those directives should be widely publicized. For example, if the Trump campaign notifies you that students should not be allowed into the Pavilion if they are wearing clothing affiliated with another campaign, or that students should be removed if they refuse to participate in chants or salutes, you should advise students of these directives as far in advance as possible.

Second, it should be clear to campus police, city police, and attendees, exactly who has the authority to make decisions about excluding or removing people from the rally. If, for example, campus police will be removing people at the direction of Trump campaign officials, those campaign officials should be clearly identifiable. Ideally, campus police should ascertain the name and position of any person who directs them to remove a student.

Third, campus police should be reminded that under no circumstances should they take action against any individual or group on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or other characteristic protected by the Illinois Human Rights Act.

Finally, if students or others are removed or excluded from the rally, they should be told the precise reason for the exclusion and the identity of the person who ordered the exclusion.

Chicago should not repeat the mistakes of Valdosta, Georgia, where a group of mostly African-American students were escorted from a Trump rally. Reports about the incident are unclear. The police and the sheriff say that the Trump campaign ordered the removal; the Trump campaign denies it. The situation is lamentable for all concerned.

UIC can and should avoid this type of situation. Announcing the ground rules in advance will diminish the chances of disturbance, confusion, or discrimination.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rebecca K. Glenberg
Senior Staff Attorney

cc: Donna M. Williamson, Campus Legal Counsel, donnaw@uillinois.edu