

After protest at governor's house, Orem makes demonstrations at homes illegal

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Link: <https://kutv.com/news/local/after-protest-at-governors-house-orem-makes-demonstrations-at-homes-illegal>



Protestors outside of Gov. Herbert's home. (Photo: KUTV)

OREM, Utah (KUTV) — New in Orem, it's illegal to target somebody's house for demonstrations. A [city ordinance](#) passed unanimously in a special meeting of the Orem City Council on Friday, days after a protest outside Governor Herbert's private residence there by people opposed to his state of emergency over coronavirus.

"They can come into a neighborhood, but they are not to target a specific home," said Richard Brunst, Orem mayor. "What this law basically states is you cannot come any closer than 100 feet of a lot line of an individual's home."

The mayor affirmed protests can still happen on streets and sidewalks—but protesters can't single out the governor's home or anybody else's house for a demonstration.

A lawyer for the city said the new ordinance passes legal muster, and the Utah ACLU stated the US Supreme Court has upheld bans "narrowly tailored to picketing specific homes."

[Orem Anti-Picket Ordinance: https://www.scribd.com/document/484209711/Orem-Anti-Picket-Ordinance#from_embed](https://www.scribd.com/document/484209711/Orem-Anti-Picket-Ordinance#from_embed)

“I don’t believe it inhibits anyone’s freedom of speech,” said Brunst.

An instructor in communications law at Weber State University said a law banning home protests must be carefully written.

“So it doesn’t discriminate against one kind of viewpoint, and say this kind of picketer is okay, and this kind of picketer is not,” said Ryan Cheek, who is also close to finishing a doctorate in technical communication and rhetoric at USU. “The other thing that it must do is make sure there are other avenues of communication open to people who want to express their viewpoints.”

This weekend, city leaders in Orem expect another demonstration near the governor’s house.

The mayor said the city does not want to issue citations—with fines up to a thousand dollars, and up to 6 months in jail—but if the group as a whole gets too close, “it’s an option.”