

# DES MOINES DEFENDER

## *Community Zine*



## BRAD KINKADE'S WEEK IN HELL

Notorious prosecutor Brad Kinkade's relentless assault on free speech ended this week in catastrophic failure, again, leaving him alone at the bottom with the lowest winning percentage of any prosecutor in the history of Polk County.

After receiving international scorn for his prosecution of a journalist earlier this year Kinkade appeared visibly rattled by the packed courtroom and went out of his way to bicker with members of the gallery during recess. His erratic behavior continued as he became preoccupied with the Twitter account of an outside observer and demanded harassment charges. The unprecedented moment featured the Assistant Polk County DA threatening the first amendment rights of a courtroom observer, during the middle of a trial attacking the first amendment rights of a protester.

Kinkade argues that hypothetical traffic is more important than the rights of a man to spontaneously assemble in protest of forced hysterectomies at US concentration camps, or a woman stepping into the street to protest for the autonomy of her own body. He ultimately is the arbiter of the ridiculous concept of peaceful protest. It is up to him when, where and how you can protest. He would rather you stay on the sidewalk.

According to Brad, it is up to each, individual protester to verify with an imaginary hierarchy that protesting the state in their chosen manner is indeed legal. What Brad doesn't recognize is this hierarchy does not exist. Spontaneous demonstrations don't require masterminds behind the scenes, securing permission from the state before hand. They just happen. It is beyond the comprehension level of the state that the police would deny permits to anti-police protests and keep the money. To Mr. Kinkade, this overt restriction of free speech is legal.

We protest in the street because that's where people can see us, Brad. And yes we know it's dangerous. Nobody asked for your help. You and your boys in blue have no obligation to help us anyways. It says so right there in your sacred laws.

*continued entire issue*

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# Meet the Witnesses!

## **BEN CARTER**

*the detective*

Detective Ben Carter (that's B-E-N-J-A-M-I-N Carter) brought intense small dick energy to the witness box. The first time masker testified before the jury with his mask attached at a 45 degree angle below his nose. Carter, who is unusually short, relied on Kinkade to fix his face just before Wednesday's testimony. Carter admitted that his career amounts to being a professional Facebook stalker compiling evidence against Black citizens with the gall to protest state sanctioned violence. Despite the presence of hundreds of other people in the street during the incident in question (this writer included) Carter's inherent racism causes him to focus on criminalizing a select few members of our community. His bias is obvious. There is no coincidence. Nothing else needs to be said.



## **SCOTT SANDERS**

*the city manager*

City Manager Scott Sanders testified in a simple misdemeanor case against a defendant he's shown clear public animosity towards. Sanders, who amounts to a real estate speculator making \$257,000 annually on the taxpayer, testified to the constitutionality of protesting in a street. The state even played a video of Sanders preemptively threatening the first amendment rights of the defendant. Because as we all know, Scott Sanders is the authority on free speech and protest in Des Moines. Kinkade even had him falsely testify under oath that he personally attended multiple BLM marches in 2020.

## **MICHAEL FONG**

*the sergeant*

Michael Fong, better known for winning fights against people with their hands tied behind their back, testified to a phone call he made to a mother of two threatening her first amendment rights days before a protest. The clueless NCO admitted before the jury that he could not recall his exact work email address. Kinkade remarkably introduced Fong's bumbling phone call as evidence on behalf of the STATE. A juror later confirmed the audio recording in no way proved the defendant was then responsible for confirming permits. Thanks for the gimme Brad!





## BARNES RETIRES BEFORE TRIAL

by Crissa Stewart

During the midst of a historic losing streak Assistant Polk County DA Brigit Barnes abruptly withdrew and retired before two crucial first amendment cases went to trial in Des Moines. Barnes retires despite having just relocated to the area for the role.

Her legacy as a prosecutor is regarded as one of the darkest periods in the history of the Polk County judicial system. She is known for several failed prosecutions charging Black residents of Des Moines with illegal protest, including a young athlete who was brutally assaulted by DMPD for being outside too late at night.

Perhaps Barnes will be best remembered via her strange body language and speaking patterns, which sometimes degraded into baby talk and repulsed juries from Dubuque to Des Moines.

Barnes goes into retirement having failed to win a single conviction against a protester responding to the Floyd Uprising in 2020, despite trying her hardest.

## JURY FOREMAN SPEAKS

by Lee Renee

"It took a while, but we got there in the end," said jury foreman Tyler Seher after ruling for the defense in State v Ramus.

At the onset of deliberation the jury was split 4-2 in favor of conviction. Two dissenters, the foreman included, argued that the state had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant knew she was protesting without a permit.

"She had plausible deniability that she was under the assumption they did have a permit," Seher said.

The foreman was initially an unknown for the defense, but ended up taking control and swinging the entire jury in their favor.

The jury of two men and four women took around two and a half hours to reach a unanimous verdict.

Irrespective of the case Seher added, "Being charged with disorderly conduct for protesting without a permit is absurd."



# Help Wanted

# Trial Support

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