

TEXT ORDER issued by JUDGE CATHERINE C. EAGLES: The plaintiffs have shown a likelihood of success on the merits and irreparable harm, but the Court concludes in its discretion that the balance of the equities and the public interest support denial of a TRO, to give the defendants a short period of time to implement reasonable time, place, and manner rules for access to courthouse grounds, if they so choose. In the absence of immediate implementation of reasonable restrictions or other material change of circumstances, and subject to further briefing, the Court will likely grant the motion for a preliminary injunction, as a long-term prohibition on protests on courthouse grounds traditionally used as a public forum violates the First Amendment. Written order with specific findings and discussion to follow by the end of the week. The Court anticipates holding the record open for a week or so for any additional evidence or briefing; a specific schedule will be set in the forthcoming order. (Sanders, Marlene)