Global Products: Balancing Public Safety and First Amendment Protections

The Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) serves as the Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) and advises the U.S. Attorney General on justice information sharing and integration initiatives. Created to support the broadscale exchange of pertinent justice and public safety information, Global is a “group of groups” representing more than 30 independent organizations spanning law enforcement, judicial, correctional, and related bodies, sharing the belief that they can bring about positive change by making recommendations and supporting the initiatives of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) is one of the working groups under Global that supports state, local, and tribal law enforcement and homeland security agencies to develop and share criminal intelligence and information nationwide. Because of its role within the nation’s intelligence landscape, the CICC is in a unique position to serve as the voice for all levels of law enforcement, which it does by advising the U.S. Attorney General, through the Global Advisory Committee, on the best use of criminal intelligence to keep our country safe.

Several products produced by Global and CICC can help guide the discussion on First Amendment protections related to public safety, privacy.

A Global product that serves as a helpful resource for law enforcement agencies related to First Amendment protections is the reference card for the Role of State and Local Law Enforcement at First Amendment Events. This resource describes law enforcement’s mission in protecting persons engaged in their First Amendment right to peaceful assembly and what this mission entails for officers. The reference card also guides officers in actions to avoid during the peaceful assembly of individuals.

Developed to support agencies as they fulfill their public safety responsibilities, and through the work and support of the CICC, the Recommendations for First Amendment-Protected Events for State and Local Law Enforcement provides guidance and recommendations to state and local law enforcement officers in understanding their role in First Amendment-protected events. The paper is divided into three sections, including the Pre-Event Stage, the Operational Stage, and the Post-Event Stage, highlighting specific red-flag issues that officers should be aware of during the process.

To access additional resources, visit the Global and CICC websites.