

Public Statement on Labor Day Activity - September 3, 2013

We wish to let you know that yesterday, Labor Day, and today, Village Officials and staff have received a number of inquiries and complaints regarding information that was disseminated and graphic images that were displayed during the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridge Walk. This activity was done on the South end of the bridge walk from public property/street right of way (ROW) in the Village of Mackinaw City. According to legal counsel, while individual village representatives may have their own moral and political views, they cannot act in their capacity as village representatives in a manner that would violate others' Constitutional rights, particularly First Amendments rights to speech, religion and assembly. To that extent, as long as those gathering to send their message do not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic, breach the peace or incite fighting or rioting and are on public property/ ROW then the village cannot prevent them from exercising their lawful rights.