

www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-chicago-pulls-permit-for-nurses-rally-planned-close-to-nato-summit-20120508,0,2184773.story

chicagotribune.com

Chicago pulls permit for nurses rally planned for NATO summit

By David Heinzmann

Tribune reporter

2:53 PM CDT, May 8, 2012

City of Chicago officials have yanked a permit they granted for a May 18 march organized by National Nurse's United less than two weeks before the long-planned demonstration, sending organizers scrambling to prepare legal action against the city.

advertisement

Chicago's Department of Transportation approved the march from the Sheraton Hotel in Streeterville to Daley Plaza months ago, but on Tuesday the California-based group received word the city had reneged on the deal, said RoseAnn DeMoro, executive director of National Nurses United.

"If the nurses are a threat to Rahm Emanuel than heaven help the U.S.," said DeMoro, who's organization was already in talks with American Civil Liberties Union lawyers to challenge the city's about-face.

DeMoro said the city is now demanding the nurses use an alternate route that would keep them out of the Loop, having the march end at the Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park, the same location where the city insisted on locating the start of the anti-NATO march on the following day.

"They're trying to marginalize the effect of the nurses," said DeMoro, who noted that the purpose of the demonstration was in support of a transaction tax on Wall Street deals. With the last-minute decision, Emanuel has failed to cast the city as a place that supports free speech. "The damage is already done to Chicago."

City officials did not immediately respond to calls for comment.

Copyright © 2012, [Chicago Tribune](#)