

February 8th, 2017



**Mark Stuart has trouble with authority.
Last night Stuart was escorted out of City Hall
by police when he attempted
to disrupt the City Council meeting.**

Stuart is managing the petition process for the No DDC special interest group to place the Desert Discovery Center issue on the November 2018 election ballot.

Before last night, Stuart had been using the public comment period during Council meetings to promote his signature gathering effort.

For weeks authorities had been preparing to prevent Stuart from continuing to electioneer from the podium in the Kiva and had a plan in place if he refused to obey the rules.

On January 30th, City Attorney Bruce Washburn sent Stuart a letter explaining that he would no longer be permitted to use a taxpayer-funded forum (i.e. City Council meeting) to campaign for an issue that may end up on a ballot. Stuart's email response, titled: "Cease and Desist With Your Unlawful Activities Immediately—or Enjoy the Consequences," said he refused to be muzzled and was prepared to go to federal court to defend his First Amendment rights.

When Stuart sidled up to the podium last night, Mayor Lane announced the ground rules by which Stuart had to abide. If he didn't, he wouldn't be allowed to speak. He didn't. So, after several minutes of tete-a-tete between the Mayor and Stuart, the podium microphone was turned off. But Stuart kept rambling — until two police officers escorted him from the building.

Another Mark Stuart stunt gone bad and one more public relations blunder from No DDC.

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