



Direct-Action 'Shoot-In' To Confirm Muni Photography Policy: Media Defending Their Rights

San Francisco, CA -- February 17th, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At Noon on Saturday, February 19th, bloggers, freelance photographers and local independent media will converge on Embarcadero Station at the Muni fare gate to take pictures. Recent reports from a number of local photographers that a photography ban is being enforced in Muni stations by both members of the San Francisco Police Department and MUNI employees, who have refused to or been unable to cite the relevant statute supporting this ban to said photographers.

We are gathering in the hopes of eliciting a response from City agencies to our repeated requests for clarification of the rules regarding photography in the Muni stations, which are public spaces and therefore open to photography under the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First Amendment. If there is a ban, we would like to be cited under the relevant statute so that we may argue our rights under the First Amendment in court. If there is not a ban, we will enjoy the opportunity to quietly take pictures of the unique modernist architecture, everyday riders and public art on display in the stations.

Protestors are asked to bring a camera, Muni fare, and be quiet and respectful of other passengers and enforcement officers. We will be gathering quietly, and then departing at 12:30 on a train, stopping at each station to explore the photographic possibilities and make our presence known to riders and authorities. That 'shoot-in' is scheduled to conclude at Castro Station at approximately 2:00. Please direct questions to Jackson West at editor@sfist.com or by phone at 415-412-9320.

Edited by Jackson West and Eve Batey, SFist features the work of over a dozen contributing authors, and covers a wide range of topics including news, arts, events, music, politics and sports. Our contributors double as authors, lawyers, theater producers, record label executives, artists, entrepreneurs, foodies, publicists, designers, photographers, techies and musicians - bringing professional experience and perspective to bear on almost any topic. SFist is a great resource for locals, visitors and San Franciscans all over the world.

You can reach SFist.com using any web browser or news feed reader. It is updated regularly every Monday through Friday.

For all inquiries please contact:

Jackson West
editor@sfist.com
415-412-9320 (phone)
<http://www.SFist.com/>