

PATRIOT FACTS

WHAT THE PATRIOT ACT MEANS TO YOU

Just 45 days after the September 11 attacks, with virtually no debate, Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act.

Many sections of this sweeping legislation take away checks on law enforcement and threaten the very rights and freedoms we are struggling to protect. . .

Collect information about what books you read, what you study, your purchases, your medical history and your personal finances.

The USA Patriot Act gives law enforcement broad access to any types of records - educational, medical, financial, sales, library, etc. - without probable cause of a crime. It also prohibits holders of this information, like librarians, from disclosing that they have produced such records, under the threat of jail time. While a court order is required to obtain the information, the Act requires that a judge rubber stamp such orders. [SECTION 215]

Search your home and not even tell you.

The USA PATRIOT Act allows law enforcement to collect secret "sneak and peak" searches of your home. Investigators can enter your home or office, take pictures and seize items without informing you that a warrant was issued for a very long time - if ever. [SECTION 213]

Label you a "terrorist" if you belong to an activist group.

The USA PATRIOT Act broadly expands the official definition of terrorism, so many domestic groups that engage in certain types of civil disobedience could very well find themselves labeled as terrorists. [SECTION 411 & 802]

Monitor your e-mails and watch what Internet sites you visit.

The USA PATRIOT Act permits the government to monitor Internet traffic and e-mail communications to any Internet service provider without probable cause by obtaining detailed "routing" information like a Web address. While this information is supposedly aimed at lawbreakers, it sweeps broadly because e-mails and Internet traffic information of innocent individuals cannot be separated from the activity of targeted individuals. [SECTION 216]

Take away your property without a hearing.

The USA PATRIOT Act allows the government to seize the assets of an individual or an organization without prior notice or hearing if the government says that they have engaged in or are planning an act of "domestic terrorism." Under this law, the government could effectively bankrupt an organization with which it disagrees. [SECTION 806]

Spy on innocent Americans.

The USA PATRIOT Act permits a vast array of information gathering on U.S. citizens to be collected and shared with the C.I.A. (and other non-law enforcement officials) without prior judicial oversight or other safeguards. This law effectively puts the CIA back in the business of spying on Americans [SECTIONS 203 & 901]

Puts immigrants in jail indefinitely.

The USA PATRIOT Act permits indefinite incarceration of immigrants and other non-citizens without the government having to show that they are, in fact, terrorists. [SECTION 412]

Wiretap you under a warrant that doesn't even have your name on it.

The USA PATRIOT Act changes the nature of warrants for wiretaps by requiring judges to approve a wiretap without knowing who is to be tapped nor where it is to be placed. [SECTION 216]

Civil Liberties Safe Zones

Four states and 295 cities, towns, and counties have passed resolutions, ordinances or ballot initiatives protecting the civil liberties of their 49.9 million residents. Hundreds more are in progress.



1. Make up your own mind. Learn more about the Patriot Act at:
www.salsa.net/peace/patriot/

2. Attend a meeting or workshop to help get the San Antonio resolution passed. Call the Esperanza Center at 210-228-0201 for more info.

3. Get your group to endorse the San Antonio resolution (see the other side of this flyer.)

4. Sign a petition and get others to sign it (petitions available from the Esperanza Center, 210-228-0201 or from Jane Tuck, 210-828-4627.

5. Write a letter to the editor supporting this resolution: letters@express-news.net or Express-News, P.O. Box 2171, San Antonio, TX, 78297-2171.

6. Contact City Council:

Mayor Ed Garza
(210) 207-7060
mayoredgarza@sanantonio.gov

District 1 Roger O. Flores
(210) 207-7279
district1@sanantonio.gov

District 2 Joel Williams
(210) 207-7278
district2@sanantonio.gov

District 3 Ron H. Segovia
(210) 207-7064
district3@sanantonio.gov

District 4 Richard Perez
(210) 207-7281
district4@sanantonio.gov

District 5 Patti Radle
(210) 207-7043
district5@sanantonio.gov

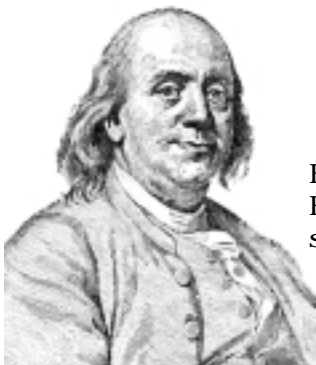
District 6 Enrique M. Barrera
(210) 207-7065
district6@sanantonio.gov

District 7 Julian Castro
(210) 207-7044
district7@sanantonio.gov

District 8 Art A. Hall
(210) 207-7086
district8@sanantonio.gov

District 9 Carroll Schubert
(210) 207-7325
district9@sanantonio.gov

District 10 Christopher "Chip" Haass
(210) 207-7276
district10@sanantonio.gov



Benjamin Franklin said:

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

A Resolution affirming civil rights and liberties:

Declaring opposition to federal measures that infringe on civil liberties

WHEREAS, the mayor and members of the City Council of San Antonio, Texas are sworn to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America and its state and local governments are obligated to protect the public from terrorist attacks but in so doing should ensure that any security measures enhance public safety without infringing on constitutional rights and civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, some provisions of the USA PATRIOT ACT (PL. 107-56), such as those listed below, as well as related Executive Orders and Directives, pose a threat to the constitutional rights and civil liberties of citizens, immigrants and international visitors:

Section 215 gives law enforcement authorities broad access to educational, medical, financial, sales and library records without probable cause.

Section 209 and 215 allow the FBI to search anybody's personal records, voice mail messages, book purchases or video rentals without probable cause.

Section 215 forbids anyone from letting the person who is the object of a USA PATRIOT ACT search know what the FBI is doing or has done.

Section 213 allows authorities to conduct secret "sneak and peak" searches of a person's home or business, take pictures and seize items without providing timely notice of the issuance of a warrant.

Sections 411 and 802 broadly expand the definition of terrorism so that domestic organizations which engage in certain types of civil disobedience could be labeled as terrorist.

Sections 201 and 216 permit government agents to monitor Internet traffic and e-mail communications without probable cause and requires judges to approve a wiretap without knowing who is to be tapped or where the tap is to be placed.

Section 806 allows the government to seize the assets of an individual or an organization without prior notice or hearing.

Sections 203 and 901 permit a vast array of information on U.S. citizens, immigrants and visitors to be gathered and shared with the C.I.A. and other non-law enforcement officials.

Section 412 permits indefinite incarceration of immigrants and other non-citizens on the basis of the U.S. Attorney General's certification that they fit within the broad definition of terrorist. This certification is based on the U.S. Attorney General's discretion alone, with very limited review; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that there is no inherent conflict between national security and the preservation of fundamental rights and liberties, and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to join the hundreds of communities throughout the United States which have passed resolutions which support constitutional rights and liberties, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of San Antonio, Texas:

AFFIRMS that any efforts to end terrorism should not be waged at the expense of constitutional rights and liberties, and

DIRECTS the San Antonio Police Department to refrain from participating in the enforcement of federal immigration laws; and

DIRECTS public libraries to adopt privacy and record retention policies designed to protect the constitutional rights and liberties of library patrons; and

DIRECTS the City Manager to collect and report to the City Council all instances of "sneak and peek" search warrants or electronic surveillance carried out in San Antonio under the authority of the USA PATRIOT ACT or related Executive Orders and Directives;

REMINDS all city officials and employees of their obligation to respect and uphold the constitutional rights and liberties of all residents, immigrants and visitors in the City of San Antonio; and

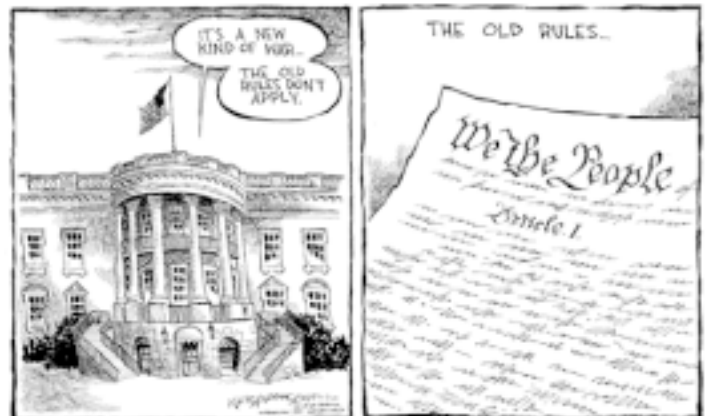
REMINDS all City officials and employees of their obligation to conduct their duties pursuant to the Constitution of the United States and state and local laws; and

URGES all City officials and employees to oppose unconstitutional laws and orders that would violate the rights and liberties of residents, immigrants and visitors of San Antonio; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Council of San Antonio, Texas urges the Congress of the United States:

NOT to extend those portions of the USA PATRIOT ACT which will automatically expire at the end of the year 2005, and to repeal those portions of the act which are permanent; and

TO pass new legislation to prevent domestic terrorism while protecting the rights and liberties guaranteed under the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution.



We hope that your organization will join us in asking the San Antonio City Council to add San Antonio to the growing list of communities who are standing up for American Freedom.

ENDORSEMENT

Name of Organization _____

Passed and Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2004

Name _____

Title _____

Please mail the original to:
ACLU/Bill of Rights Defense Coalition
Attn: Jane Tuck
139 Waxwood Ln
San Antonio, TX 78216-6855