

Chicagoans make their voices heard in inauguration day protests

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Donald John Trump, the 45th President of the United States, was sworn into office on Friday, January 20, much to the anger, frustration, and worry of many Americans across the country. The city of Chicago was no exception to this. Shortly after the end of the swearing in, Chicagoans bundled up and began to organize and gather in the heart of the city to have their anger and frustration voiced for the entire world, and hopefully the commander in chief, to hear. At 3 p.m., the protests officially began with a two-hour rally at the Daley Center, which is surrounded by numerous city, county, and state government buildings including the city hall itself. The crowds included several groups of students from local high schools and colleges who had walked out of their classes in protest of the

inauguration. Several political, social, and community groups also made themselves present at the protests including numerous churches, political groups, and student organizations.

Many of the people at the rally had intentionally ignored the television coverage of the inauguration to keep from the president the satisfaction of high TV ratings. Even so, a large television feed showing the inauguration day parade and celebrations was set up across the street from the Dally Center to keep the crowds informed on the events occurring in the nation's capital city. As the rally entered its second hour, people noticed as the protests in Washington D.C. began to turn into full scale rioting. With images surfacing of burning limousines and smashed windows, protest organizers in Chicago called for peaceful protesting, which was the case for most of the day. After the end of the second hour,

the protesters began to make their way to the Chicago riverfront from the Daley Center to begin the second protest in front of the president's grand skyscraper in the city, the Trump International Hotel.

As the sun began to set, the crowd of protesters began to march through the streets across the Chicago River from the base of the tower while the police and bystanders looked on in both astonishment and fear. In addition to signs and banners filling the streets, music from an orchestral band filled the air as they played in the background. The orchestra's musical selection included such songs as the Imperial March from Star Wars, We Don't Need No Education by Pink Floyd, and the Oompa Loompa's song from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. While the early hours of the protest at Trump International Hotel were relatively peaceful, as the night drew on the crowds began to collapse in size and increase

in violent activity. Clashes between rioters and the police began to appear throughout downtown as they began to block off streets and disrupt traffic on busy roads such as Lake Shore Drive. Despite these moments of violence and conflict, the city remained relatively peaceful when compared to other cities that experienced protesting, such as Washington D.C.

When the day came to an end, many people in the city and around the world were not yet ready to call it quits just yet. The Women's March on Washington took place the very next day along with several other sister marches in major cities around not just the nation, but the entire world. Of these sister marches, Chicago was one of the largest. With crowds surpassing a quarter of a million people, it is obvious that the citizens of this city are not afraid to speak and stand up for what they believe in.





