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[Occupy Atlanta booted from Woodruff Park](#)

By

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Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed has for days warned the so-called Occupy Atlanta protesters that they would need to leave Woodruff Park. They tried to work out some sort of arrangement with the city to stay, despite already receiving better treatment than other groups that want to stage protests in the city; however, Mayor Reed [ordered police to clear Woodruff Park early this morning](#):

Woodruff Park remained quiet and empty early Wednesday morning after Atlanta police reclaimed the park, arresting 53 Occupy Atlanta protesters after multiple warnings.

Organizers had urged protesters who were not arrested to return to the park at 6 a.m., but there were none in the park as of 7:15. About two dozen Atlanta police officers remained on the perimeter of the park, which was surrounded by 4-foot metal barricades.

Mayor Kasim Reed told reporters more than 100 officers were involved in the operation to clear the park, adding the protests, which started more than two weeks ago, had cost the city roughly \$300,000.

Officers swarmed the park around 12:45 a.m. The arrests were orderly and peaceful, though some of the protesters had to be dragged out. By 1:30 a.m. the park had been cleared and by 2 a.m. onlookers and demonstrators who watched from the perimeter had largely dispersed as police maintained a significant presence downtown.

[...]

Reese McCranie, Reed's spokesman, said early Wednesday morning the clergy members tried to engage protesters and were rebuffed. After that the mayor made good on his vow Monday to "clear the park" if no resolution was reached.

"No one's really listening to me," said the Rev. Darrell Elligan, pastor of the True Light Baptist Church, following his meeting late Tuesday afternoon with Occupy Atlanta representatives. Elligan, president of the Atlanta chapter of the Concerned Black Clergy, was among a coalition of 30 faith leaders asked by Reed to meet with the demonstrators, though the pastor said they were not representing the mayor.

My agreement with this group ends at anger over the bailouts, which were a product of corporatism and cronyism and not capitalism. I do, however, believe that everywhere someone happens to be standing is a free speech zone, but I'm not sure that staying a public park indefinitely is the way to go about your protest; especially when you're costing taxpayers \$300,000. And again, this group was given much more in terms of access by the city than Tea Party groups had been, and they [are justifiably bothered by that](#).

These guys were also starting to sound absolutely nuts. Apparently, they marched to the Georgia-Pacific building yesterday to protest the [Koch brothers](#) over their influence in politics. In case you don't know, Charles and David Koch are libertarian-leaning multi-billionaires that donate substantial sums of money to think tanks (Cato Institute) and fiscally conservative causes (Americans for Prosperity). David Koch was the Libertarian Party's Vice Presidential nominee in 1980. The Koch brothers are less known for donating substantial sums of money to medical research and charity.

According to Thomas Wheatley, Occupy Atlanta [issued a demand](#) that the brothers get their money out of politics or the protesters [would](#) "levitate the Georgia Pacific building where they do their business." Seriously? What the hell does that even mean? No word on whether they've asked George Soros to remove his money from the political system.

The "occupy" protests do seem like they're starting to taper off. Mainstream America may not be happy with bailouts, but they're not supportive of the Leftist causes that many of these protesters have been rambling on about for the last few weeks.