



Community Justice Project
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Greetings,

Knock First Minnesota is a non-partisan initiative created by the Community Justice Project of the University of St. Thomas School of Law. The mission of this initiative is to end the use of no-knock warrants in Minnesota through comprehensive legislation. Our vision is that every Minnesotan will have the opportunity to answer the door.

No-knock warrants provide law enforcement an exception to the knock-and-announce rule. The knock-and-announce rule for the execution of warrants is derived from the Fourth Amendment and is applicable to all federal and state law enforcement. The rule requires law enforcement to: 1) audibly make their presence known [such as by knocking]; 2) announce their status as law enforcement; 3) announce the purpose of the law enforcement presence; and 4) delay for a period of time sufficient to permit the occupants to reach and open the door. The no-knock warrant exception was created on the supposition that eliminating the announce and delay requirements would protect the safety of officers and prevent the destruction of evidence.

However, this supposition has been proven to be invalid. No-knock warrants create an inherently dangerous situation for all parties and directly conflict with the Second and Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Radley Balko, an expert on forced entry by law enforcement, estimates that eight to ten innocent people die each year during the execution of no-knock raids. People subject to the execution of no-knock warrants of their residence may act in self-defense due to the apparent threat of a home invasion. Law enforcement officers are confronted with the possibility of residents reacting violently to their unannounced entry in self-defense. This is increasingly troublesome given the rise of gun ownership for personal protection purposes in the United States. No-knock warrants create situations that at best will result in extensive property damage, and at worst, result in loss of life.

The recent deaths of Breonna Taylor, James Scott Reed, and Officer Matthew Rittner illustrate how no-knock warrants cause needless tragedy in this country. Currently, Florida, Oregon, and Virginia are the only states with bans on no-knock warrants, but the list of cities banning their use is growing. The list includes Louisville, Memphis, Indianapolis, San Antonio, and Aurora.

Knock First Minnesota takes a non-partisan approach to achieving a ban on no-knock warrants due to the bi-partisan nature of Minnesota's state government. Knock First Minnesota believes the banning of no-knock warrants is a universal issue which can only be solved by gaining support from people of all political beliefs.

Knock First Minnesota asks for your support. You can support Knock First Minnesota by signing and sharing this [petition](#), and by reaching out to your [specific state legislator](#) on the issue. If you would like more information on no-knock warrants, please contact Knock First Minnesota at ipc-troe6346@stthomas.edu. Knock First Minnesota does not accept donations, nor does it purchase services.

Every Minnesotan deserves the chance to answer the door.

Thank you,

Knock First Minnesota

