

A Group of Michigan Citizens Protest Staying at Home in “Operation Gridlock”

By Allan Smith



On April 1st, there was a protest in Lansing, Michigan’s capitol. Thousands of people came to the state capitol to protest Governor Gretch Whitmer’s stay at home order because they feel like it takes away their freedom. The protestors blocked the streets with their cars, and many of them got out of their cars even though their leaders told them not to. They walked the streets and waved flags, shouting, “Open up Michigan!” This protest was called “Operation Gridlock.”

A leader of the protest named Marian Sheridan explained why she opposed the stay at home order. "Citizens are frankly tired of being treated like children," Sheridan said. "As adults, we now know what needs to be done to stay safe. We do not need the governor to tell us what to do."

Tom Norton, who is running for Congress, does not want the state to be shut down for other reasons. He says that small businesses are losing money and may have to close due to the stay at home order, and that people may become sad or depressed if they cannot go outside.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer spoke about the protest. She said she was "really disappointed" to see people congregating outside and not wearing masks during Operation Gridlock. "We know this protest endangered people, put more people at risk of catching COVID-19 and could prolong how long we all need to stay at home.

Adapted by Amanda Juntunen