

Boston Residents Push Back on Trump's Proposal to Deploy National Guard Troops

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Bostonians seem to be in agreement that President Trump's notion to send National Guard troops to major U.S. cities, especially Boston, is uncalled for. Many strolling the Commons felt Trump had deeper intentions with this effort besides just ensuring safety in cities. Some expressed pure outrage.

"I think it's an abomination and completely against the law and against everything America stands for," said Becky Miller, part-time Boston resident.

National Guard troops have recently been deployed to Washington D.C., Los Angeles, CA. and Memphis, TN. The Trump Administration argues that this is needed because major cities are experiencing surging crime and local authorities are failing to restore order. They have also expressed plans and attempted to send troops to Chicago, IL. and Portland, OR., but were legally contested.

Many Democratic state governors have resisted these efforts. They believe that the presence of troops will only escalate things and cause continuous violence. In some cases, Trump deployed troops despite objections.

The Guard was deployed to multiple of these locations in response to protests regarding immigration raids. Many believe this was not a necessary or proper response.

Samantha, a Suffolk University student, was listening to music on a walk when she expressed that she felt protests could be addressed differently. "Hearing that makes me scared

and nervous. Why do we need the National Guard?” she said when discussing the possibility of deployment in Boston.

Samantha stood in the park facing Tremont Street, where she mentioned a large protest had just recently occurred. “I know Michelle Wu spoke out and said that that’s not acceptable, which I agree with, and I think that’s the most that that should be,” she said.

James Toubia, a Boston resident, expressed similar discomfort with the presence of troops in his city. “I am definitely against that because this is the safest major city in the U.S., so there is absolutely no need for that,” he said. Toubia made it clear that he disagreed with the deployments in general. “Regardless of what city, I am still against how he’s going about everything.”

President Trump justified the deployments as a need for safety, but Boston residents suspected other motives. Some expressed that they believe it’s a form of control.

“I personally think it is a horrible thing to do ... It is a way to police the people and make sure they are not protesting, which is their civic right to do,” said Kaylee Moran, Suffolk University student, while she sat on a park bench in the Boston Common.

Even those who felt they were not well-informed on the subject were alarmed by the sound of the recent deployments. “That doesn’t sound good ... I feel like there is nothing warranting it, especially here in Boston,” said Max Parker, an Emerson student, who was enjoying his lunch in the park.

The cold and gloomy day in the Common mirrored many of the angry and fearful reactions to the National Guard deployments.

“Anyone who thinks it’s a good idea is f—ing stupid,” said Gwen, a Boston resident, behind the hot coffee she was sipping. “That’s it,” she said.

Her one sentence embodied the common theme of passionate disapproval amongst those in the park.