

Sample Press Release to Use With Picket

Use this press release to announce your picket of the local ABC affiliate. Reword it as desired, then retype double-spaced and mail to all newspapers, radio and TV stations in your area on August 23. All the objectionable words and descriptions listed below need to be a part of this press release so the local media can understand that this is not just another program. We doubt very seriously if your local media will use the language, but if you don't provide them with it they may not be aware of it.

(Name of your church or group) will be picketing (Call letters of station) next Monday, August 30, to protest the station's plan to show a new program described by some as being R-rated, softcore pornography. The local picket is one of several planned at ABC affiliates across the country to protest the showing of the program.

ABC plans to begin showing the program, NYPD Blue, in September. NYPD Blue is produced by Steven Bochco. "Bochco and ABC want to further push the limits of sex, violence and profanity on network TV with NYPD Blue. We are asking ABC and their local affiliates not to show softcore pornography and to show respect for our families," said Donald E. Wildmon, president of American Family Association, which is leading the effort opposing NYPD Blue.

(INSERT HERE ANY COMMENTS FROM THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE LOCAL GROUP.)

USA Today said this about Bochco's NYPD Blue: "A clip shown at the New York presentation (of NYPD Blue) featured a cop — Dennis Franz — in bed with a prostitute. Another scene had a colleague undressing a woman in a steamy sex scene. All this, and blood and guns and racy language, too, from Bochco...."

Hollywood agents were told that nudity would be required of the actresses who'll portray the show's two female leads. USA Today said the pilot had a sex scene that shows a woman's breasts and includes raw, gutter language.

James Conslather of WLOS in Asheville said of the show: "I'm surprised they went as far as they did. I don't think they needed to do that to have a successful program." Clyde Helton of KSPR in Springfield, Missouri, said the show was "more graphic" than he would have liked. "I don't think it will play well in Springfield." Perry Chester of WQAD in Moline, Illinois, called the sex scene "a little strong."

TV critic Tom Shales of the Washington Post wrote about the "four-letter words and explicit bedroom scene" in the pilot. Said Shales: "Dennis Franz as an embittered, alcoholic cop stands on the courtroom steps having an argument with a stubborn female district attorney, who uses the phrase *ipso facto* in her remarks. Suddenly the cop grabs his crotch and shouts, 'Hey, *ipso* this, you pissy little bitch!' Among words heard on the pilot are 'tits,' 'whiz,' 'fat-ass,' and 'douche bag,' plus words even harsher than these. During a sensually photographed sexual encounter between Franz's partner...and a young female rookie, both of their undraped posteriors are briefly seen as the pair thrash about."

Bochco told USA Today: "TV has always been 30 years behind the times. It's no secret I've been trying to drag these folks kicking and screaming into the 1990s. And I must say, ABC...has been terrific." He told ABC's Good Morning, America: "I would hope...that networks will begin to allow those of us who are making serious dramas to bring, to produce more explicit material for network television...Language, sex, the whole panoply."