

Park rally law stands—for now

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SKOKIE – The park district ordinance requiring non-district groups wishing to hold rallies in Skokie parks to secure an insurance bond – the ordinance protested by the Nazis first – still stands.

Roger Bjorvik, park attorney, gave this opinion, Monday, Feb. 27 when asked if the recent court decision, finding three village ordinances unconstitutional, doesn't hold the park code automatically unconstitutional.

Arthur Jago, park board president, thought the court decision might because one of the overturned village laws dealt with requiring groups wishing to demonstrate in Skokie to secure a \$350,000 insurance bond.

“OUR ORDINANCE stands until it is tried,” Bjorvik said. “However,” he added, “if you lay our ordinance next to the village's and it is exactly the same, it doesn't take an attorney to tell you something.”

It was the passage of the park district's new parade and assembly code in 1976 that caused the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America to plan a demonstration in front of village hall to protest the code. Since then the Nazis have directed their energies toward marching on Skokie's streets rather than holding a rally in a Skokie park.