



Written by [Staff](#) on August 22, 2023

Published in the September 11, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 17

---

## Inside Track

### Manchin Considers Dropping Democrat Label



Joe Manchin (AP Images)

According to *The Hill*, in an August 10 interview with West Virginia radio host Hoppy Kercheval, West Virginia's Senator Joe Manchin said he is considering leaving the Democratic Party to become an Independent. For some time now Manchin has claimed he is dissatisfied with the direction of the party, and he apparently seems set to defect.

"I'm thinking seriously" of leaving the party, Manchin said. "For me, I have to have peace of mind, basically. The brand has become so bad — the D brand and R brand. In West Virginia, the D brand because it's [the] national brand. It's not the Democrats in West Virginia, it's the Democrats in Washington."

Manchin has earned the ire of Washington Democrats over his reluctance to follow the party line on several issues in the past few years, including their court-packing scheme, considering doing away with the filibuster, ESG investing, and Biden nominations for key bureaucratic posts whom Manchin referred to as "climate activist" nominees.

But perhaps nowhere was his rift with Democrats more apparent than on Biden's "Build Back Better" bill. In a December 2021 press release, Manchin said, "I cannot explain the sweeping Build Back Better Act in West Virginia and I cannot vote to move forward on this mammoth piece of legislation."

He had given people hope at that time that at least one Democrat hadn't gone completely off the deep end regarding climate change and globalism. Unfortunately, it was short-lived, as Manchin picked up his Democrat mantle in July 2022 and assisted in the writing and passage of Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

Manchin is considering a run for president as an Independent or a candidate for No Labels, a nonpartisan group attempting to put a third-party candidate on the 2024 presidential ballot, and apparently wants to carve out a place in the political center as some sort of reasonable centrist. Unfortunately, he gave up that chance when he gave Joe Biden and the Democrats the victory on the Inflation Reduction Act.



Written by [Staff](#) on August 22, 2023

Published in the September 11, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 17

---

— *James Murphy*

## City Tells Rabbi to Stop Gatherings at His Home



(Anderson Piza/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

Beverly Hills, California, has ordered an Orthodox Jewish rabbi to stop holding small religious gatherings at his home, evidence of which it gathered via police stakeouts and drone surveillance, the rabbi's attorneys allege.

The Daily Caller reported on August 10 that on June 12, Rabbi Levi Illulian received a "Notice of Violations" letter from the city, ordering him to "terminate all religious activities" at his home that include "non-residents" and threatening him with civil and criminal proceedings if he fails to comply.

According to an August 9 letter from Illulian's attorneys to the city, Illulian hosts a variety of religious activities at his home, from weekly Shabbat services to holiday celebrations to ritual mournings for the dead. These gatherings are always limited to invited guests, primarily friends and family members.

Although "Rabbi Illulian strives to be respectful of the community and the city's law [and] instructs his guests to be courteous to neighbors," someone complained to the city about the gatherings in February, alleging that they were creating parking problems, noise, and an excessive amount of garbage in the trash cans behind the house. "After spending nearly a month investigating the complaints," recounted the attorneys, "the city initially (and correctly) concluded that the alleged violations were unfounded and closed its case."

However, after receiving another complaint in March, the city reopened its investigation, engaging "in multiple stakeouts of the home," reads the letter. "City officials not only tallied the number of individuals and cars coming and going from the home, but also photographed Rabbi Illulian's guests." The attorneys further allege that the city used "aerial drones without obtaining a warrant."

The letter notes that "the number of individuals in attendance" at one of Illulian's gatherings is "comparable to other gatherings that regularly occur in the neighborhood," including poker nights and Christmas parties, yet these events have not been targeted.

The attorneys note that the rabbi "will pursue all available legal options" if the city persists in its case.

— *Michael Tennant*



Written by [Staff](#) on August 22, 2023

Published in the September 11, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 17

---

## Antifa Exonerated in Andy Ngo Trial



Andy Ngo (AP Images)

The Post Millennial reported on August 8 that a jury in Portland, Oregon, has found Rose City Antifa defendants John Colin Hacker and Elizabeth Renee Richter not liable for violent attacks against investigative journalist Andy Ngo, after their attorney declared to the jurors in court that she was Antifa and that she would “remember each one of their faces.” Ngo had charged Hacker and Richter with various acts of violence beginning in 2019, and sought nearly \$1 million in damages.

The Post Millennial tweeted that “on May 7, 2019, Hacker allegedly threw an unknown liquid onto Ngo at a local gym, then forcibly robbed Ngo, taking his phone.”

On June 29, 2019, while covering a Proud Boys rally in Portland, Ngo was attacked by protesters whom he identified as Antifa. He said that the encounter sent him to the hospital.

And on May 28, 2021, members chased and beat him until he was able to get away and seek refuge in The Nines hotel in Portland. Ngo says that Elizabeth Richter was among that group, and that she followed him into the hotel before the staff escorted her out. She and the other Antifa members lingered outside, calling Ngo’s name, beating on the windows, and yelling obscenities and threats for some time afterward.

After the trial ended on August 8, Ngo tweeted that the “court was played video showing ... Richter threatening to beat me worse than what I suffered in the June 2019 Antifa attack in which I suffered a brain hemorrhage & nearly died. The jury saw video of her rallying comrades & pointing me out at the Nines Hotel in downtown Portland.”

The trial’s outcome is not surprising. According to The Post Millennial, the judge mentioned various jurors’ safety concerns about being doxed, and defense lawyer Michelle Burrows declared in her closing statement, “I am Antifa,” and told jurors that she would “remember each one of their faces.” She excused the group’s use of violence, saying that “resistance in this country has never been peaceful.”

— *Rebecca Terrell*



Written by [Staff](#) on August 22, 2023

Published in the September 11, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 17

---

## Biden Declares a Climate Emergency — “Practically Speaking”



(AP Images)

In an August 8 interview with The Weather Channel, President Joe Biden told meteorologist Stephanie Abrams that, “practically speaking,” he has declared climate change a national emergency in the United States.

“Mr. President, you called climate change a code red for humanity. The World Health Organization said it would cause an additional quarter of a million deaths a year starting in 2030. Are you prepared to declare a national emergency with respect to climate change?” Abrams asked.

“I’ve already done that, the national emergency — we’ve conserved more land, we’ve moved into — we’ve rejoined the Paris Climate Accord, we’ve passed a \$368 billion climate control [initiative]. We’re moving. It is the existential threat to humanity,” Biden said.

But none of those actions included an *actual* emergency declaration, so Abrams pressed, “So you’ve already declared that national emergency?” “Practically speaking, yes,” Biden eventually answered.

In the eyes of climate hysterics, an emergency declaration would essentially give the president the power to completely disregard any input from Congress and become a climate-friendly king issuing any proclamation he wishes.

On August 9, Climate Depot’s Marc Morano noted that the Biden administration “believes that when democracy fails to achieve its climate goals, it’s time to bypass democracy and Congress and follow the COVID model. Climate activists have lusted after the COVID lockdowns as the model for climate lockdowns. The plan is to declare a ‘climate emergency,’ toss out elected representatives and follow China’s one-party rule model by implementing energy restrictions through the bureaucracy.”

On May 2, Democrats introduced a “Climate Emergency Resolution” demanding that the “president wield both existing authorities and emergency powers to unleash every resource available to mitigate and prepare for the climate crisis,” and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) has urged Biden to declare a climate emergency and take dictatorial powers in the absence of a willing Congress.

— James Murphy



## Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



**Subscribe**

### What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.