

**NEW HAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE**

GENERAL ORDERS



GENERAL ORDER 311

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 FEB 2011
REVISED DATE: 1 MAR 2011**

Citizen's Right to Video

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish departmental guidelines governing the video recording of police activity by the public.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. *New Haven Police Officer or Officers:* Any sworn member(s) of the New Haven Department of Police Service, regardless of rank or official assignment within or outside of the department.

B. *Video Recording:* The act or acts of capturing still or moving images which may include contemporaneous audio by means of digital or analog "devices".

C. *Video Recording Device:* This definition includes but is not limited to the following:

- i. Cellular telephones of all kinds

- ii. PDAs, i.e. Personal Digital Assistants
- iii. Digital or analog still cameras
- iv. Digital or analog video cameras
- v. So-called "Smart Phones"
- vi. Electronic tablets, such as "iPads"
- vii. All other similar digital and/or analog devices capable of capturing a still or moving image or images with or without contemporaneous audio.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of the New Haven Department of Police Service to permit video recording of police activity as long as such recording does not interfere with ongoing police activity or jeopardize the safety of the general public or the police.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The mere act of video recording officers of the New Haven Department of Police Service engaged in their official duties is not prohibited by federal or state statute, New Haven municipal ordinance or case law.
- B. As a result, a person may video record officers of the New Haven Department of Police Service performing their official duties, as long as such video recording does not interfere with ongoing police activity or jeopardize the safety of the general public or the police.
- C. Any officer of the New Haven Department of Police Service, who determines that a person video recording police activity has committed or is about to commit a crime, should take appropriate enforcement action, consistent with the applicable law as well as any applicable policies and procedures of the New Haven Department of Police Service.

V. SUMMARY

As set forth in the body of this policy, the video recording of police activity in and of itself does not constitute a crime, offense, or violation. If a person video recording police activity is arrested, the officer must articulate clearly the factual basis for any arrest in his or her case and arrest reports.

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