



RED OAK ISD

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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January 18, 2018

Mr. Avi S. Adelman
PhotographerOnBoard.com
5620 East Side Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75214

Dear Mr. Adelman:

Your request for Public Information received on January 09, 2018, regarding *Departmental policy, code, general orders, directives and/or guidelines of the public's right of photography and/or the photography/recording (video or audio) of department officers providing services in a public area* has been processed.

At this time, we are in the process of upgrading our policy manual. We do not currently have a policy regarding the public's right to photography in open areas. Our ROISD Police Department's Policy and Procedure Manual currently only includes Press Relations. However, as we upgrade our policy manual this year we will include a section dealing with this subject. Enclosed is a current copy of the Press Relations policy.

Yours Truly,

Imelda Lord
Administrative Assistant
to the Chief of Police

Enclosure

cc: Red Oak ISD Police Department PIA File

XX. PROCEDURES CHAPTER TEN: PRESS RELATIONS**SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND INTENT****A. PURPOSE AND INTENT**

This chapter is intended to direct Departmental personnel toward good press relations by identifying their responsibilities in dealing with the news media.

It is not the responsibility of the Department to act as a filter or censor of information, or to use its authority to make decisions about the amount or type of information made available to the community. It is the policy of the Department to observe such legal guidelines as will protect individual rights to privacy without jeopardizing the criminal investigation process.

SECTION 2: MAJOR INCIDENTS**A. PRESS CREDENTIALS**

Legitimate reporters and photographers will be allowed access to scenes of police incidents pursuant to restrictions placed on them by the ranking officer at the scene or detailed in other sections of this chapter. If deemed necessary by the scene supervisor, news media members may be required to display Texas Department of Public Safety press credentials for admission to the scene.

Amateur photographers and persons without proper media accreditation will be regarded as bystanders and will be given no more liberty at the scene of an incident than other members of the general public.

SECTION 3: CRIME SCENES**A. MEDIA ACCESS**

Members of the news media will be given access to crime scenes as soon as determined practicable, with the following exceptions:

1. When the presence of the news media might adversely affect the preservation of the crime scene. This restriction shall be considered to apply to all homicide scenes.
2. When news media presence would interfere with a police investigation or operation.
3. When members of the news media, in the judgment of the scene supervisor, are exposed to clear and present danger.

Still photographs or film footage may be taken in or from any area to which the news media has been given access. Officers may restrict the use of high-intensity lighting when such illumination might hinder a police operation.

Police personnel will not compel arrestees to pose for news media cameras. However, officers will not interfere with a photographer or video camera operator photographing or filming suspects, arrestees, victims or witnesses provided such activity originates from an area to which the news media has been given access.

B. INTERVIEWS

Members of the news media will not be denied interviews with crime or disaster victims when these persons express no objection to being interviewed. Officers may make an exception when victims are injured, emotionally out of control or otherwise incapable of making sound decisions. – Interviews shall be left to District Spokespersons designated by the Superintendent of Schools.

SECTION 4: RELEASE OF INFORMATION

A. RELEASE AUTHORIZED

Departmental personnel will, as soon as practicable, make available to the news media the following factual information pertaining to criminal investigations:

1. The offense committed including the time, date and location of the crime; identification and description of the victim; and a detailed description of the offense including, but not limited to, the premises, property and vehicles involved.
2. Facts and circumstances of arrest including the date, time and place of arrest, resistance, pursuit and use of weapons. The race, sex, age, occupation, city of residence and physical condition of the suspect also may be released, but the name and street address of the suspect will remain confidential until the suspect, if at least 17 years of age, becomes the subject of formal charges. Names and street addresses of juvenile offenders will at no time be released.
3. The identity of the investigating and arresting officers, if this information will not compromise an undercover investigation.
4. A general description of evidence seized avoiding details that might hinder the investigation or jeopardize the case.
5. The nature of the charge including notation of any release or transfer.

B. RELEASE NOT AUTHORIZED

Information will NOT be released pertaining to the following:

1. Identification and description of witnesses.
2. Statements concerning anticipated testimony or credibility of witnesses.
3. Existence or contents of any statement, admission or confession.
4. Officers' opinions about suspects or evidence.
5. Personal history and arrest records.

6. Names of persons killed or seriously injured prior to notification of next-of-kin.
7. Investigative information developed by comparative or analytic procedures involving suspects or evidence. This includes, but is not limited to, results of breath or blood analysis, polygraph examination, photographic or live lineup, fingerprint comparison, ballistic identification, or tool mark comparison. Information gained from such forensic procedures and tending to substantiate guilt of a suspect is not to be released outside the criminal justice system before presentation in open trial. This restriction does not prohibit inclusion of details in a crime report narrative relating to circumstantial evidence observed by or related to an officer.

EXCEPTION

An exception to this restriction exists with regard to blood or breath testing for determination of intoxication of a motor vehicle operator involved in a traffic accident. The State motor vehicle accident report form, which is a document of public record, requires the type and result of such testing to be noted on the reverse side of the form. This shall be done unless the suspect is a juvenile.

C. INFORMATION REQUESTS DURING FOLLOW-UP

Requests for information regarding any investigation not released at the scene or included in the initial crime report should be directed to the officer assigned follow-up investigative responsibility.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

Any information which might adversely affect the outcome of an investigation or any other type of information not covered within this Chapter will only be released following consultation with and approval from a supervisor.

E. INFORMATION FROM POLICE FILES

Information from Departmental files will NOT be provided to any person who is not a part of the criminal justice system with the exception of such information as may be contained in the following:

1. Traffic accident reports
2. Incident reports (This does NOT include supplemental reports-witness and victims' names shall be placed in supplement page)
3. Jail booking forms when such forms are not obtained from personal history and arrest records

SECTION 5: DISTRICT SPOKESMAN

A. PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

The district spokesman is the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. Media requests for information or interviews shall be referred to that spokesman.