

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

NOTICE
1.11

May 30, 2017

TO: All Sworn Personnel

FROM: Director, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: FILMING THE POLICE - INFORMATION CARD

The prevalence of cell phones, mobile devices, and tablets in our society has given rise to increased filming of police officers during the performance of their duties. It is the responsibility of police officers and community members alike to understand the limitations and expectations of their actions during these encounters. To further the Department's commitment to constitutional policing, the Department has issued "Filming the Police" information cards. The front side provides direction to an officer regarding his/her rights and expectations when subject to filming. The opposite side provides direction to members of the public regarding their rights and expectations when filming police interactions.

When subject to filming, officers may:

- Verbally acknowledge the public's First Amendment right to film/photograph;
- Ask a photographer to back up if he or she is physically interfering with an officer's ability to do his or her job;
- Ask the photographer if he or she will share the footage with officers if there is evidence on the device officers need; and,
- Ask a photographer, who refuses to share footage, for their information so that investigators may obtain a warrant.

When subject to filming, officers may not:

- Compel a photographer to stop recording, delete a recording, or leave the area entirely; if he or she is interfering with your job, ask him or her to back up.
- Detain someone for photography when they have committed no articulable crime; or,
- Touch or threaten to touch cameras or equipment.

Officers are encouraged to carry this information card for reference and distribute them to the public as appropriate. These cards are available upon request, via Supply Order Form, Form 15.11.00 from Supply Division.

Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Evaluation and Administration Section, Office of Operations, at (213) 486-6050.


MICHAEL R. MOORE, First Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

DISTRIBUTION "A"

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Director, Office of Operations

DISTRIBUTION "A"

Filming the police: Tips for the Public

Everyone has the right to film and photograph police officers in public. Whether you are using your camera to record a police interaction or you are a police officer trying to do your job safely and effectively, you should be polite, respectful, and calm. The list below reflects legal rights and practical tips that we hope will encourage civil interactions, not confrontations.

"I want to film a police interaction. What should I do?"

<p>Do's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do take an additional step back if asked to move further away. • Do demonstrate that you are not a threat by openly holding the camera without any sudden or aggressive movements. • Do cease any activity that an officer determines is interfering in a legitimate law enforcement operation. • Do calmly ask the officer to state a basis for their actions if they try to detain you or order you to stop filming. 	<p>Don'ts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't interfere with the officer doing his or her job or physically get in the officer's way • Don't insult or threaten officers or act aggressively, make any sudden movements, or hold your camera up like a gun. • Don't record secretly. Be respectful of the dignity of all those involved in the police interaction. • Don't resist arrest or run.
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Los Angeles Police Department

Filming the police: Tips for Police Officers

Everyone has the right to film and photograph police officers in public. Whether you are using your camera to record a police interaction or you are a police officer trying to do your job safely and effectively, you should be polite, respectful, and calm. The list below reflects legal rights and practical tips that we hope will encourage civil interactions, not confrontations.

"I'm a police officer and I see someone is recording me. What should I do?"

<p>Do's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do verbally acknowledge the public's First Amendment right to film/photograph • Do ask a photographer to back up only if he or she is physically interfering with your ability to do your job. • Do ask the photographer if he or she will share the footage with you if there is evidence on the device you need. • Do ask a photographer, who refuses to share footage, for his or her information so that investigators may obtain a warrant 	<p>Don'ts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't compel a photographer to stop recording, delete a recording, or leave the area entirely; if he or she is interfering with your job, ask him or her to back up. • Don't detain someone for photography when he or she has committed no articulable crime. • Don't touch or threaten to touch cameras or equipment. • Don't compel a photographer to provide his or her personal information if he or she refuses to share a recording.
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Los Angeles Police Department

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