

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

September 9, 2014

NOTICE 11.2

TO: All Sworn Personnel

FROM: Director, Office of Operations

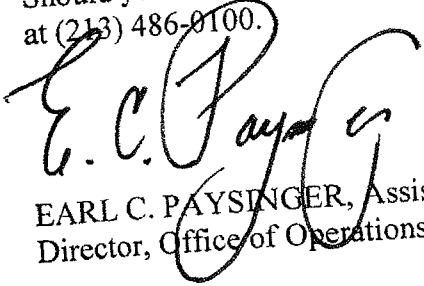
SUBJECT: RIGHTS OF PERSONS TO PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEOTAPE OFFICERS IN PUBLIC

The purpose of this Notice is to ensure that all Department personnel have a clear understanding of the law as it relates to members of the public photographing and videotaping police activity occurring in a public place.

During many incidents the public gathers to observe and record police activity. Since many devices have the ability to photograph and videotape, officers will likely encounter being photographed or videotaped. Therefore, it is important for officers to understand the rights of the public regarding photographing and videotaping police activity. When police activity occurs in a public place, the public has a right to photograph and videotape police officers, police activity, suspects, witnesses, and victims; provided such activity does not interfere with the investigative responsibility of the officer and privacy rights of the people being recorded. The public also has the right to photograph and videotape government buildings, including police stations, provided that such activity is done for lawful purposes.

This Notice is not intended to discourage officers from detaining and investigating anyone who engages in behavior reasonably indicative of pre-operational planning related to threatening, aiding/abetting, and attempting to perform unlawful acts in furtherance of terrorist activity. Similarly, if officers conclude that an individual is behaving in a manner that is illegal or indicative of suspicious activity then officers have a right and obligation to complete an investigation, make an arrest, complete a Suspicious Activity Report, or take other appropriate action. As with all detentions and arrests, officers must be able to articulate a proper basis for the detention or arrest.

Should you have any questions, please contact Commander Matt Blake, Office of Operations, at (213) 486-0100.


EARL C. PAYSINGER, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

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