

PARISH OF ST. BERNARD

POLICIES FOR PUBLIC RECORDING IN PUBLIC SPACES

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the Parish of St. Bernard's commitment to transparency and the public's right to record matters of public interest, while ensuring the safety, security, and uninterrupted operations of municipal government. This policy establishes clear rules for public recording and conduct within Parish facilities and on public property.

Section 2. Authority

This policy is adopted to intentionally be consistent with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 7 of the Louisiana Constitution, and Revised Statutes regarding government transparency.

Section 3. Definitions

1. Public Recording – Capturing still images, video, or audio by any means – including cameras, phones, or other devices – by members of the public.
2. Municipal Facilities – Any building, room, or property owned, leased, or controlled by the Parish of St. Bernard.
3. Public Area – Areas of a municipal facility accessible to the general public without escort, such as lobbies, meeting rooms, public recreational areas, and public sidewalks.
4. Restricted Area – Areas not open to the public without express authorization, including employee-only offices, secured workspaces, mechanical rooms, file and storage areas, and areas marked with “Authorized Personnel Only” signage.
5. Disruptive Conduct – Behavior that interferes with Parish operations, obstructs access, or threatens the safety of Parish personnel or others.

Section 4. Right to Record

1. Members of the public may engage in public recording in any Public Area of Municipal Facility, subject to the limitations set forth in this policy.
2. Recording is prohibited in Restricted Areas unless prior written approval is granted by the Parish President or his designee.
3. Recording is prohibited where it violates federal, state, or local law, including privacy protections for confidential records and information.

Section 5. Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

1. Public recording must not:
 - a. Block ingress or egress to any building or room.
 - b. Interfere with employees' ability to conduct official business.
 - c. Capture protected confidential information (e.g. personal identifying information, certain legal case files, protected health information, or personal financial documentation)
 - d. Harass, intimidate, or threaten employees or members of the public.
2. Tripods, lighting equipment, or other recording accessories may be restricted if they present a safety hazard or impede movement.

3. In public meetings, recording must comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law (La. R.S. 42:11 *et seq.*) and the Parish's policies regarding recording of public meetings.

Section 6. Signage and Notice

Clear signage shall be posted at all public entrances indicating the areas where public recording is permitted and the existence of Restricted Areas. A copy of this policy shall be available at the Front Desk of the Government Building and on the Parish's official website.

Section 7. Enforcement

1. Employees are instructed to address conduct, not the act of recording itself, unless the recording violates this policy or applicable law.
2. If an individual engages in Disruptive Conduct, staff may:
 - a. Politely remind the individual of the applicable rule;
 - b. Request compliance or relocation to an appropriate area; and
 - c. Contact law enforcement if the individual refuses to comply after being informed of the rules.
3. Physical removal of an individual shall be a last resort and only undertaken by law enforcement.

Section 8. Training

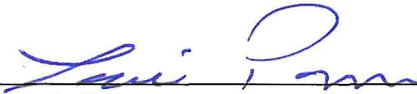
The Parish shall provide annual training to all municipal employees on:

- Constitutional rights related to public recording;
- How to respond to First Amendment Auditors and other public recorders; and
- De-escalation techniques and incident reporting.

Section 9. Incident Documentation

1. Any significant interaction involving a dispute over public recording shall be documented in an incident report by the supervising employee.
2. All pertinent security video of any incident shall be archived and saved in anticipation of future litigation.

Adopted in Chalmette, LA on this 29th day of October, 2025.



Louis Pomes
President, Parish of St. Bernard