

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YALE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS</b> <i>Serving with Integrity, Trust, Commitment and Courage Since 1894</i></p>	ORDER TYPE: <b>NEED TO KNOW</b>	
	<b>308 CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO VIDEO POLICE OFFICERS</b>	
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">04 DEC 2012</p>	REVIEW DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">ANNUAL</p>

**PURPOSE**

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

**POLICY**

The Department permits video recording of police activity when the recording does not interfere with ongoing police activity or jeopardize the safety of the general public or the police.

**DEFINITIONS**

<b>Officer</b>	Means a sworn member of the Yale University Police Department regardless of rank.
<b>Video Recording</b>	Means the act or acts of capturing still or moving images which may include contemporaneous audio by means of digital or analog devices.
<b>Video Recording Device</b>	Includes but is not limited to cellular telephones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), digital or analog still cameras, digital or analog video cameras, smart phones, electronic tablets such as iPads, all other similar digital and/or analog devices capable of capturing a still or moving image or images with or without contemporaneous audio.

**PROCEDURES**

- The mere act of recording video of officers engaged in their official duties is not prohibited by federal or state law, municipal ordinance or case law.
- A person may record video of officers 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.
- Officers shall not threaten, intimidate or otherwise discourage an individual from remaining in the proximity of or recording police officer activities.
- Officers shall not detain, prolong the detention of, or arrest an individual for remaining in the proximity of, recording or verbally commenting on officer conduct directed at the individual or a third party .
- Officers shall take appropriate enforcement action against a bystander only if the bystander's presence would jeopardize the safety of the officer, the suspect, others in the area or crime scene integrity; the bystander violated the law or the bystander incites others to violate the law.
- When practicable, the Shift Commander or Shift Supervisor must be present on scene before an arrest is made involving a person's use of a recording device.
- Officers must clearly articulate the factual basis for any arrest made of any person recording police activity (ie: how the person obstructed, resisted, hindered or endangered the officer in the performance of their official duties) .

- Officers shall not, under any circumstances, erase or delete or instruct or require any other person to erase or delete, any recorded images or sounds from any camera or other recording device that is in the possession of a non-police officer, or that has been voluntarily seized or turned over to an officer.
- Officers shall not seize or otherwise coerce production of recorded sounds or images without obtaining a warrant. Where an officer has probable cause to believe that a bystander or witness has captured a recording of critical evidence related to a felony, the officer may secure the evidence for no longer than required to obtain a search warrant pursuant to the procedures outlined in Standard Operating Procedure 656- Electronic Evidence.

PER ORDER OF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnell A. Higgins", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

RONNELL A. HIGGINS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CHIEF OF POLICE

**THIS ORDER SUPERCEDES GENERAL ORDER 308 CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO VIDEO POLICE OFFICERS, ISSUED ON 08 APR 2011.**