


<b>East Haven Police Department</b>  	<b>Type of Directive:</b> <b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		<b>No. 204.2</b>
	<b>Subject/Title:</b> <b>Recording of Police Activity by the Public</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b> <b>July 29, 2014</b>	
	<b>Issuing Authority:</b> <b>Honorable Board of Police Commissioners</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>September 1, 2014</b>	
<b>References/Attachments: N/A</b>		<b>Review Date:</b> <b>Annually</b>	
		<b>Rescinds:</b> <b>204.1</b>	
		<b>Amends:</b> <b>N/A</b>	

## I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this directive is to set forth the policies and procedures of the East Haven Police Department regarding departmental guidelines governing the video recording of police activity by the public.

## II. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of the East Haven Police Department that officers shall respect the rights of civilians to observe, record, and comment on officer conduct and to permit video recording of police activity by the public as long as such recording does not interfere with ongoing police activity or jeopardize the safety of the general public or the police.
- B. Personnel shall neither threaten such persons nor intimidate them from remaining in the vicinity of police activity.

## III. PROCEDURES

- A. The mere act of video recording officers of the East Haven Police Department engaged in their official duties is not prohibited by federal or state statute, East Haven municipal ordinance or case law.
- B. As a result, a person may video record officers of the East Haven Police Department 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 report to their supervisors when they believe that they are being or have been recorded.

- C. Any officer of the East Haven Police Department, who determines that a person video recording police activity has committed or is about to commit a crime, should take appropriate enforcement action, consistent with the applicable law as well as any applicable policies and procedures of the East Haven Police Department.
- D. The video recording of police activity in and of itself does not constitute a crime, offense, or violation. If a person video recording police activity is arrested, the officer must articulate clearly the factual basis for any arrest in his or her incident and arrest reports.
- E. Where an officer has a reasonable belief that a bystander or witness has captured a recording of critical evidence related to a felony, the officer may secure such evidence for no more than six hours while a search warrant is applied for.