



2-33 RIGHTS OF ONLOOKERS

2-33-1 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to protect the rights of onlookers while maintaining the integrity of a scene and/or investigation.

2-33-2 Rules

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A. Witnessing Stops, Detentions, Arrests

1. Persons that are not involved in an incident may be allowed to remain in the immediate vicinity to witness stops, detentions, and arrests of suspects occurring in public areas, except under the following circumstances:
 - a. When the safety of the officer or the suspect is jeopardized.
 - b. When persons interfere or violate the law.
 - c. When persons threaten by words or actions, or attempt to incite others to violate the law.

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B. Overhearing Conversation

1. If the conditions at the scene are peaceful and sufficiently quiet, and the officer has stabilized the situation, persons shall be allowed to approach close enough to overhear the conversation between the suspect and the officer, except when:
 - a. The suspect objects to persons overhearing the conversation.
 - b. There is a specific and articulable need for confidential conversation for the purpose of police interrogation.

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B. Inquiries

If a citizen is a witness to the activity for which the suspect was detained or arrested, the officer may request his/her name; however, the citizen is not compelled to disclose such information.

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C. Bystander Filming of Officer-Suspect Contacts

1. Bystanders have the right to record police officer enforcement activities by camera, cell phone, video recorder, or other means (except under certain circumstances as set forth in Sections A and B above).
2. An officer shall not seize, compel or otherwise coerce production of these bystander recordings by any means without first obtaining a warrant. Without a



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warrant, an officer may only request, in a non-coercive manner, that a bystander voluntarily provides the film or another recording.

3. These requests should be made only if the officer has probable cause to believe that a recording has captured evidence of a crime.
4. If a bystander refuses to voluntarily provide the recording, an officer may request the person's identity as provided in Section C-2, above.
5. If a bystander voluntarily provides his or her recording and/or equipment, the officer shall provide the bystander with a receipt PD-1354. The receipt shall contain a written statement verifying that the recording and/or equipment has been voluntarily provided to the Department and shall be signed by the bystander.
6. The collected recording/equipment will be treated as evidence and tagged accordingly.

D. Violations/Compliance

As an alternative to arresting an onlooker who is in violation of City Ordinance Section 12-2-19 or other related offenses (State Statute 30-22-1) officers may order onlookers to "move on". however, the person shall not be ordered to move any farther distance than is necessary to end a violation. Persons who believe that an officer did not comply with the provisions of this order shall be referred to an appropriate supervisor. If the person refuses to comply with the officer's order, the officer shall notify his supervisor. Complaints by onlookers shall be referred to the officer's supervisor.