

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD
ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE VIDEO
RECORDING OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, West Deptford Township embraces, supports, and will protect open government and the general public's right to be fully informed of the actions of its Township Government; and

WHEREAS, in this context West Deptford Township recognizes that modern technology provides numerous ways for members of the public who wish to do so to record Open Public Meetings; and

WHEREAS, decisions by the Courts of the State of New Jersey (including *Tarus v. Borough of Pine Hill*, 189 N.J. 497 (2007), *Maurice River Township Board of Education v. Maurice River Township Teachers Association*, 187 N.J. Super. 566 (Chan. Div., 1982) and *Maurice River Twp. Bd. of EDUC v. Maurice River Township Teachers Association*, (App. Div., 1984) whose holdings are paraphrased in this resolution and in the accompanying guidelines) and in many other states recognize the common law right of members of the public to video record Open Public Meetings of government bodies; and

WHEREAS, decisions by those same courts also hold that the common law right to video tape is neither absolute nor unqualified. Citizens are not permitted to disrupt meetings while exercising their right to videotape; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford may impose reasonable guidelines to ensure that the recording of meetings does not disrupt the business of the Township Committee or disrupt or limit other citizens' right of access or participation in the meetings; and

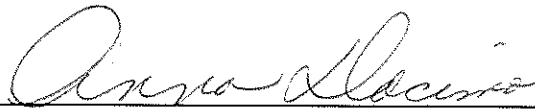
WHEREAS, to that end the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford has

developed guidelines designed to protect the right of members of the public to record; the right of the public generally to attend, observe, and participate in; and the obligation of the Township Committee to properly conduct its meetings and business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford, County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey on this 3rd day of March, 2011, that the Guidelines for Video Recording of Open Public Meetings of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford be and are hereby adopted and made a part of this Resolution.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford held on Thursday, March 3, 2011.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD

By: 
ANNA DOCIMO, Mayor

ATTEST:


AMY LESO, Acting Township Clerk

**GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO RECORDING OF OPEN
PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP
COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WEST DEPTFORD**

PURPOSE

The goal of these guidelines is to ensure the protection of the right of members of the public to video record meetings of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford, while providing that such action does not disrupt the business of the Township Committee or the right of others to access the Public Meetings and participate therein.

GUIDELINES

1. An Open Public Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford may be video recorded by any person in attendance.
2. Any person wishing to video record such a meeting shall give the Township Administrator verbal notice not later than three (3) hours prior to the commencement of the Public Meeting of that person's intention to exercise his or her right to video record the meeting. This will provide an opportunity for a review of the request and the identification of the location where the video recorder may be operated.
3. The video recorder and any associated equipment utilized must be compact, quite and generally unobtrusive.
4. If the video recorder or associated equipment requires connection to electricity, the connection to electricity may be made only by a standard plug which can easily and properly connect to the nearest electrical outlet. If at any time the video recorder or associated equipment trips a breaker, blows a fuse, or causes a loss of power in the meeting room or elsewhere in the building, the person recording shall immediately cease video recording and may not be allowed to continue video recording with any recorder or equipment that requires connection to electricity.
5. The person recording may not disrupt the public meeting with recording equipment or the act of recording. The person recording may not set up or use the video recorder or equipment in such a way that will block or obstruct the view by other members of the public of the Township Committee's proceedings, or the view by the Township Committee of the public. The video recording of the citizen may only be done in a manner that is generally orderly and unobtrusive.
6. The cameras shall be operated in inconspicuous areas of the meeting room, generally toward the corners and generally toward the rear in areas identified by the Township Administrator, provided however, that the specific location shall permit an unobstructed view of the proceedings by the camera. The location and operation of the camera shall not interfere with the safe ingress and egress of the meeting room, nor otherwise present any unreasonable

interference with use of the room.

7. The recording may not be represented as the official public record of the Township of West Deptford.

8. The Township Committee shall be given an opportunity by the recorder to obtain copies of the recording at the Township's expense, but the Township Committee shall not edit or abridge the original recording.

9. Absent prior approval from the Township Administrator, no temporary artificial lighting device or additional sound amplification of any kind shall be employed in connection with the video recording.

10. A person wishing to record a ceremonial portion of a meeting (such as the presentation of a Proclamation) may, for the length of the ceremony, locate him or herself and his or her camera reasonably near the ceremony being conducted, provided that there is no interference with the conduct of the ceremony or the view by the public or the Township Committee.

11. Members of the public may not video record meetings or portions of meetings which are permitted by law to be closed to the public.

12. No more than two (2) cameras, each operated by a single recorder, shall be used at any one time. Requests to video record shall be handled on a first-come, first served basis in accordance with these guidelines.