



# FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ROLL CALL TRAINING

May 25, 2022

## First Amendment Audits

First Amendment Audits are a social movement that involve filming or photographing public employees while in a public place. Auditors frequently target law enforcement buildings and parking lots, as well as other city buildings and offices.

The First Amendment right to record video and audio in a public place was reaffirmed in *Glik v. Cunniffe* (2011), during which the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit held that a private citizen has the right to record law enforcement officers engaged in their duties in a public place.

As these audits continue to grow in frequency, it is important for all employees to be aware of these incidents and to understand how to handle them as they occur.

1. Employees must understand the auditors do have the authority to film public employees in public places. This includes an auditor filming an employee while in the front lobby or public parking lots.
2. Employees should ensure non-public areas are appropriately identified as an area not open to the public and can enforce reasonable regulations to limit the right to film in these areas. Non-public areas can include any area which visitors must be escorted in to before entering, including hallways, cubicles, and offices.
3. Employees should maintain a professional demeanor, even if provoked by an auditor. It is important to remember negative interactions will likely be publicized online or on social media. If an employee feels they are unable to control an interaction with an auditor, they should remove themselves from the situation as appropriate, instead of engaging with the auditor.
4. Employees should report interactions that escalate to harassment or abuse. This could include incidents where an auditor blocks an employee's movements or uses offensive language while engaging with an employee.

**Author: Officer Michelle Belyea**

**Distribution: All employees**