

East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District		
SOG 244-First Amendment Audits		
	<u>Implementation Date:</u> December 1, 2022	<u>Revision Date (s):</u>
		<u>Review Date:</u>
<p><i><u>Disclaimer:</u> This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. This policy should not be construed as creating duty to act or a higher duty of care, with respect to third party civil claims against employees or the department. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i></p>		
Applicable State Statutes:		
OSHA:		
NFPA Standards:		
CBA:		
Pinellas County 600:		

Purpose or Policy Statement:

This policy provides guidelines for the preservation of First Amendment Rights in light of First Amendment audits in sensitive or dangerous areas and interacting with First Amendment auditors. This policy will set forth methods to secure within reasonable limits District buildings, property, and emergency scenes from the public and First Amendment auditors.

Definitions:

First Amendment audit: social movement involving an individual or group who film on government property without permission and disrupt the District's ability to provide public services and or their interaction with government officials to test their first amendment right.

First Amendment auditor: an individual or group who film on government property without permission and disrupt the District's ability to provide public services and or their interaction with government officials to test their first amendment right.

Nonpublic forum: public property which is not by tradition or designation a forum for public expression. Examples: military base, police station, fire station, courthouse, prison, etc..

Public Forum: public property for use by the public as a place for expressive activity.
Examples: school board meetings, municipal theaters, park facilities, etc.

Policy: It is the policy of the District to secure sensitive or dangerous areas from access to the public while upholding their First Amendment rights. It is the District's policy to educate employees on the First Amendment and inform employees on proper First Amendment audit interactions with the public and District employees.

Procedure:

1. Identify and clearly designate nonpublic forums areas with signage that defines the limited access such as "Authorized Personnel Only", "Official Vehicles Only", "No video or audio recording" or "No Admittance Without Official Business".
2. All District employees will receive training for familiarity with the First Amendment, and best practices for interactions with First Amendment auditors.
3. District employees shall introduce themselves and ask if there is anything they can help a possible First Amendment auditor with.
4. District employees shall allow the public to video record District buildings, property, and emergency scenes when not trespassing in an area clearly designated as limited access by proper signage, scene caution tape, or an area with an expectation of privacy (bathroom, bunk room, the back of an ambulance, etc.).
5. Should a First Amendment auditor trespass into posted limited access areas, become belligerent, violent, pose a safety risk, or disrupt patient care the District employee shall ask the auditor to leave. At no time shall a District employee use threats, physical action, or verbal assault to control a First Amendment auditor. Should a First Amendment auditor interaction escalate the District employee is to request Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and District 57.