

**RESOLUTION RE: VIDEO RECORDING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Sussex is required to hold public meetings in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, as the Governing Body, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Sussex County is responsible for conducting its public meetings in an orderly fashion to ensure both the proper administration of public business and the participation of the public in its meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Supreme Court has determined that the public has a common law right to video record public meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Supreme Court has further ruled that the common law right to video record a public meeting is neither absolute nor unqualified; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Supreme Court has further ruled that public bodies may impose reasonable guidelines to ensure that the recording of meetings does not disrupt the business of the Governing Body or other citizens' right of access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders desires to create a policy to balance the public right of access to its meetings with the public right to video record its meetings, as established by the New Jersey Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders desires to adopt reasonable guidelines to comply with the mandates of the New Jersey Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the ensuing "Guidelines for Video Recording of Public Meetings of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Members of the Public" are attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that the attached guidelines shall control the video recording of any public meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders by any person.

Certified as a true copy of the  
Resolution adopted by the  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.

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Suzannah L. Givone, Clerk Pro Tem  
Board of Chosen Freeholders  
County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

**GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO RECORDING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF  
THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Any member of the public may video record any public meeting of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders (BCF), provided that person recording complies with the following guidelines:

1. All video recording of BCF meetings must adhere to all of these guidelines.
2. There shall be no surreptitious video recording of any BCF meeting, and recording shall commence when the meeting is *called to order* and shall cease when the meeting is *adjourned*.
3. The video recording of any BCF meeting shall be done in an unobtrusive manner utilizing any type of video recording device that does not require use of special lighting beyond the normal room lighting provided in the BCF meeting room.
4. Any person recording a BCF meeting shall supply battery-operated power for their video recording device and the use of the County's electrical system is prohibited.
5. The video recording of a BCF meeting shall not require any special microphones or amplification devices to be utilized (beyond those devices built into the video recording device).
6. Only hand-held or tripod-mounted video recording devices may be utilized to video record a BCF meeting.
7. Any person recording a BCF meeting shall position themselves in the right rear corner of the BCF meeting room facing the dais. The equipment shall be set up so as to not block or interfere in any way with another person's view of the proceedings or with the video recording of the meeting by another person or the County itself.
8. A person video recording a BCF meeting remains a member of the public and may not speak to or interrupt any member of the Governing Body or any member of the public recognized by the Freeholder Director to speak during the public portion of the meeting; including, but not limited to, requesting that the person face the recording device, speak louder or take any other action to facilitate the video recording of the meeting.