

**ORDER ADOPTING RULES AND POLICIES FOR  
RECORDING PUBLIC MEETINGS**

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF WALKER  
WALKER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 3

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WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of Walker County Emergency Services District No. 3 (the "District") is committed to open government and ensuring that the public is fully informed on the actions of their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, citizens of a democracy are best served when public meetings are open and when decision making is transparent; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 551.023(a), Texas Government Code (the "Texas Open Meetings Act"), a person in attendance may record all or any part of an open meeting of a governmental body by means of a tape recorder, video camera, or other means of aural or visual reproduction; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 551.023(b), Texas Open Meetings Act, a governmental body may adopt reasonable rules to maintain order at a public meeting, including rules relating to the location of the recording equipment and the manner in which the recording is conducted, as long as those rules do not prevent or unreasonably impair a person from exercising their right to record all or any part of an open meeting of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the District deems it necessary to establish and adopt reasonable rules and policies for recording the District's public meetings to maintain order and accommodate citizens and members of the media who wish to record the District's meetings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT, THAT:

**SECTION 1. RULES AND POLICIES FOR RECORDING PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- A. Any member of the public shall be permitted to record by tape recorder, video camera or other recording device, a public meeting without prior written notice.
- B. All recording shall be performed in a manner that is not unreasonably obtrusive or disruptive of the proceedings or in violation of any federal or state law or any law or regulation governing the safety of persons or property.
- C. The Board President, or any other individual presiding over the District Board meeting if the Board President is not present, shall designate an area within the meeting room for the operation of tape recorders, video cameras and other means of audio or visual reproduction. Operation of such equipment is limited to the designated recording

area. Stationary equipment, once positioned, shall not be moved during the public meeting.

D. The equipment utilized should operate silently, and while cell phone video recording is permitted, cell phones with video recording capability shall be silent.

E. Absent prior approval from the District, no additional artificial lighting shall be permitted.

F. The Board President, or any other individual presiding over the Board meeting if the Board President is not present, shall have the authority to require disruptive recording operators to either turn off the recording device or otherwise have the recording device removed from the meeting room.

G. No person shall operate a tape recorder, video camera, or other means of aural or visual reproduction within the meeting room prior to or after a meeting unless the person being recorded grants his or her consent.

**SECTION 2.** The District is hereby directed to implement, administer, and enforce the Rules and Policies for Recording Public Meetings.

**SECTION 3.** This Order shall be effective immediately. The President or Vice President or the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to do all things necessary and proper to evidence the Board's adoption of this Order and to carry out the intent hereof.

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