



# DEPARTMENT NOTICE

20-041  
03/23/20

## Surreptitious Recording

The purpose of this bulletin is to remind sworn and non-sworn members about the policy regarding surreptitious (secret or clandestine) recordings covered under Department General Order 2.01 Rule #56.

**Department General Order 2.01 #56 States;** *“Unless conducting an assigned criminal or administrative investigation, no member shall surreptitiously record (video or audio) any other member who is on-duty without the express written approval of the Chief of Police.”*


Prohibited surreptitious activity includes the audio recording, video recording and/or photographic recording of another member with ANY personal cellular phone or department issued cellular phone or any electronic technology that is capable of making an audio, video or photographic record.

Any information obtained or accessed by members during the performance of their duties is privileged information due to their employment in the San Francisco Police Department, and therefore shall not be recorded by any means. Please note, Body Worn Camera (BWC) policy is not changed by this bulletin. Members shall continue to adhere to all departmental BWC policies and procedures.

Members are reminded to use department issued electronic devices (i.e. department issued cell phone) when conducting any authorized criminal or administrative investigation.

### Related Policies:

DGO 2.09, Personal Use of Social Media  
DGO 10.08, Use of Computers and Peripheral Equipment  
DB 18-071, Management of Department Social Media Accounts

  
WILLIAM SCOTT  
Chief of Police

*Per DB 19-156, both sworn and non-sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this Department Notice in HRMS. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to [sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org) who will provide additional guidance about the directive.*