

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR

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IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING CONDUCT AND USE OF CELLULAR
PHONES, PORTABLE COMPUTERS, PHOTOGRAPHIC, RECORDING OR
OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Rules of the Municipal Court of the City of San Antonio, Texas and Chapter 21 of the Texas Government Code give the Courts the responsibility and authority of ensuring the integrity and impartiality of court proceedings; and require that proceedings be conducted with dignity and in an orderly and expeditious manner with control of the proceedings so that justice is done; and

WHEREAS, a person's conduct, and use of technology in the Frank Wing Municipal Court Building impacts the dignity and the orderly and expeditious manner in which the proceedings are conducted so that justice is done; and

WHEREAS, this Order is established to address protocols on conduct and usage of technology in a court setting; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio Municipal Court Judges encourage the appropriate conduct and use of expanding technology in an effort to provide opportunities for all parties, in order to process court matters in a timely and efficient manner without disruption to court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio Municipal Court Judges also wish to protect the privacy of parties, observers and court personnel conducting business from unwanted conduct and intrusion from others in the courthouse.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the City of San Antonio Municipal Court Judges that the following policy is in effect from this day forward to maintain proper order and decorum and the appearance of impartiality:

1. **Conduct:** No person shall be permitted to remain within the Frank Wing Municipal Court Building if engaged in loud, disruptive, or offensive language or actions.
2. **Recording Prohibition:** The photographing, recording, broadcasting or televising of any person, object or proceeding inside the Frank Wing Municipal Court Building is not permitted, unless previously authorized by the Court. The Court Security Officers and Court Bailiffs shall be extra vigilant in ensuring that cellular telephones/devices with camera capabilities, cameras, or other recording devices are not used to photograph, record, and broadcast or televise any person, object or proceeding. Any individual who violates this Order may be subject to being removed from this Frank Wing Municipal Court Building and having his/her electronic device forfeited to the Court Security Officers and/or Bailiffs. All forms of audio recording, video recording and use of photographic applications are strictly prohibited in City of San Antonio Municipal Court except as specified in this order. Audio recording, video recording, and photographic devices may be permitted during a court proceeding only with prior approval from the judge.
3. **General Public Provision:** Cellular devices, laptop computers, tablet computers, and any other electronic recording devices or photographic equipment shall not be used in the courtroom and must be turned off, unless approval is granted by the Judge. Cellular devices, laptop computers and tablet computers may be used in the lobby areas provided that they are used in a reasonable and non-disruptive manner, subject to the recording prohibitions in number two above. All persons appearing in City of San Antonio Municipal Courts shall adhere to these Rules of the Municipal Court of the City of San Antonio, Texas. Dignity and solemnity shall be maintained in the courtroom. Unnecessary conversation, loud whispering, newspaper or magazine reading or other distracting activity in the courtroom while Court is in session is strictly prohibited.
4. **Violations:** Violation of this Court Order may result in the individual being asked to leave the Frank Wing Municipal Court Building, being removed from the Frank Wing Municipal Court Building, the confiscation of cellular devices, laptop computers, tablet computers, and any other electronic recording devices

or photographic equipment, and/or a finding of Contempt of Court. Any confiscated item will be returned upon exiting the building.

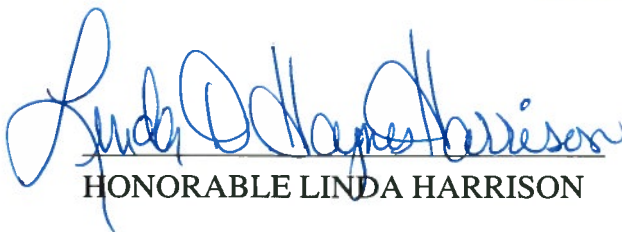
APPROVED: 3-20-2017


HONORABLE JOHN W. BULL


HONORABLE CLARISSA CHAVARRIA


HONORABLE LISA M. GONZALES


HONORABLE DANIEL GUERRERO


HONORABLE LINDA HARRISON


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HONORABLE CHRISTINE D. LACY


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HONORABLE MARGARITA S. POL


HONORABLE PETER A. ZAMORA