

Sunshine
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Criminal Justice Program at Wake Forest University, also said that the use of cell phone cameras is an incredible tool for police accountability.

"A lot of police officers are aware that citizens, and public faces, are under video surveillance. In many cases, there are dash-cams to record the behavior of police officers," she said. "There are studies, one in Rio Alto, Calif. and Mesa, Ariz., that confirms that when officers are wearing body cameras that complaints against those police and uses of force decrease. Part of that is when the public knows that they are also being recorded, then they change their behaviors as well."

North Carolinians have the right to record officers' interaction with another resident if that resident gives permission.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, taking photos of things that are plainly visible from public spaces is a constitutional right and that

includes federal buildings, transportation facilities' and police and other government officials carrying out their jobs.

When in public spaces where you are lawfully present, you have the right to photograph anything that is in plain view, except when you are on private property, where the owner can set the rules. Officers cannot confiscate or demand to view photos or videos without a warrant.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that police may not search your cell phone when they arrest unless they have a warrant.

In June 2014, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that police must obtain a warrant before searching the contents of a cell phone seized by someone who has been

arrested, in the Riley v. California case.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the court's opinion that cell phones are not just a modern convenience but that they contain the privacies of Americans. "The fact that technology now allows an individual to carry such information in his hand does not make the information any less worthy of the protection for which the Founders fought," he said.

Dennis said that there have been instances of officers seizing recording devices but those do not override the rights of citizens to record law enforcement. "Two most noted instances are Felicia Gibson, 2009 in Salisbury, and Emily Good, in Rochester, N.Y. in 2011. These are illustrations of how it is not always as simple as a citizen having a recording device and, from the perception of law enforcement, conducting a recording of the incident that is not distracting," she said. "Felicia Gibson, for example, was considered by the law enforcement officer to be causing a distraction during a traffic

stop and high speed chase". The ACLU believes that the law applies to stand-alone cameras and other digital data.

That can change if courts approve the temporary warrantless seizure of a camera in extreme circumstances where the device would be necessary to save a life, or to prevent the destruction of evidence.

Officers can't delete photographs or tamper with memory/data cards and they may legitimately order citizens to stop recording if they are interfering with law enforcement operations. "Depending on the circumstances, recording law enforcement does not necessarily inhibit or distract law enforcement. Citizens have to be careful not to interfere, distract, or place themselves in harms way," Dennis said. "Citizens also need to be careful not to 'take the law into their own hands'."

If you are stopped or detained for taking photos, the ACLU asks that residents remain polite and never physically resist an officer.

In many states, there has been talk of passing

legislation that would make it difficult or illegal to record, audio or visual, in a public place because it violates wire tapping or eavesdropping laws.

In Illinois, a bill was passed that made it a felony to secretly tape private conversations. That law has since been revised so that the part that would make it a felony for citizens to record public interaction with law enforcement and residents was removed.

While it is technically legal to record on-duty police officers in every state in the country, residents should be aware of other laws that deter it. Residents are often creating a sense of accountability for those officers that have sworn to protect and serve. So have we come to the point where residents are policing the police?

"The Eric Garner incident reminds many people of the Rodney King incident. Law enforcement have dash-cameras in their cars and many law enforcement departments use recording devices on their uniforms,"

Dennis said. "Citizen recordings only create

checks and balance for law enforcement if we can trust citizens are catching the full incident, are not editing the recordings, and are not interfering with law enforcement's job."

Simmons said that some people, both the general public and officers, fear that the cameras can change officers behaviors that could endanger them or the public.

"The idea is, are they concerned that something on that tape could be misconstrued as unnecessary force or improper, and we call that the chilling effect undo cameras may have on policing. There is an important balance that we need to strike between being transparent and protecting officer safety," she said.

"I think the cameras are good for transparency and accountability.

"You don't want officers to risk their safety, but at the same time, as long as they are executing their job properly, the law is actually very favorable, as we have seen in the Eric Garner and Michael Brown cases."

Meeting
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North Carolina.

Those named on the suit stated that they were suing because the board did not have "a policy which discourages or prohibits those whom [the board] has invited to deliver prayers from including references to Jesus Christ, or any other sectarian deity, as part of their prayers."

The injunction was thrown out by U.S. District Court Judge James A. Beaty Jr., who reminded board members to be inclusive in their policy choice. His ruling was made possible by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Greece, N.Y. v. Galloway case, where justices voted 5-4 that the town didn't violate the U.S. Constitution by allowing ministers to deliver Christian prayer at meetings because the town had an inclusive policy.

The Commissioners' clerk will complete the invocation schedule and

make sure the speaker will not be scheduled to offer an invocation at consecutive meetings or two meetings in a year. There will be no prior inquiry, review of or involvement in the content of the invocation. Other potential speakers can be added to the list at any time.

While the Board did not include many stipulations in the updated policy, they did include this:

"The Board requests only that the prayer opportunity not be exploited as an effort to convert others to the particular faith of the invocational speaker, threaten damnations, nor to disparage any faith or belief different than that of the invocational speaker."

Commissioner Everette Witherspoon said that he is happy with the updated policy and said so are his constituents. "For many, including African-Americans, our decisions are faith-based. We've always had to fight for what we felt was right ... it is right for Christians to

be able to say 'Jesus' when praying, just as it would be right if they were Muslim and saying 'Allah,' or Buddhist and calling upon 'Buddha,'" he said.

Charles F. Wilson, president of the local chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and an ordained Baptist minister, said that the group is happy that the county is inviting all religious groups to participate and calls that an improvement of the previous policy. "Our position overall is the same as it's always been. We had rather there be a moment of silence. That's not going to happen unless the person who has it that evening has a moment of silence," he said. "It's a government meeting, and we don't think they should necessarily have any kind of prayer at a government meeting."

Watts said, "The law of the land now is that invited ministers can come, give an invocation according to the dictates of their own faith, and that's acceptable."

March is TB Awareness Month



Tuberculosis is a disease caused by germs that are spread from person to person through the air.

Know the Facts:

- People with **TB Disease** are sick with active TB germs, symptoms, and can spread the disease to others.
- People with **Latent TB Infection** do not feel sick, do not have symptoms, and cannot spread the disease to others.

Forsyth County Department of Public Health
Promoting Health, Improving Lives
Call 336-703-3100 for more information

THE MOVEMENT

Winston-Salem, NC, March 12, 2015 – St. Peter's Church and World Outreach Center launches a 6-month program to strengthen families in the Winston-Salem and surrounding communities.

The Strong Family Movement kicked off on March 1, 2015 by hosting Bishop Dale C. Bronner, founder/senior pastor of Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral. Bishop Bronner delivered a dynamic message that challenged families to reframe their thinking and reach God's best for their lives.

To continue the remarkable start to The Strong Family Movement, St. Peter's will be holding informational sessions on relevant family topics on the third Wednesday of each month and fun family outings on the fourth Wednesday of each month from March through August. The current itinerary is as follows:

- 3/18 | We Are Family
- 3/25 | Family, Food and Fun Night
- 4/15 | Balancing Life And Family Part 1
- 4/22 | Balancing Life And Family Part 2
- 5/20 | Healthy Sex Education For The Family Part 1

- 5/27 | Healthy Sex Education For The Family Part 2
- 6/17 | Effective Parenting At Every Age Part 1
- 6/24 | Effective Parenting At Every Age Part 2
- 7/15 | The Wealthy Family Part 1
- 7/22 | The Wealthy Family Part 2
- 7/26 | Fatherless Generation, Motherless Generation
- 8/2 | Strong Family Movement Culmination & Family Fun Day

Learn more about The Strong Family Movement by visiting www.SPWOC.com/TheMovement.

St. Peter's Church and World Outreach Center is located in Winston-Salem, NC where Dr. James C. and Mrs. Joyce Hash, Sr. are Senior Pastors. St. Peter's World Outreach Center is focused on transforming lives for global service, winning souls and making disciples. Services are held each Sunday at 9:30 am.



Easter
SUNDAY

9:30AM

