
Video/Filming and Photography in Cemeteries Policy

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Parks & Recreation staff retains the right to approve, deny or halt filming or photography that interferes with normal cemetery operations, violates a family's expressed desire for privacy or depicts the City or Department inaccurately and/or negatively. Political or partisan activities of any nature, including filming of campaign ads, are not permitted on cemetery grounds.

SECTION II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to be respectful of the individuals that are laid to rest in our cemeteries and sensitive to the living family members, friends, and loved ones of those that are interred in our cemeteries.

SECTION III. POLICY

A. News Media/Public/Family Members

Video/filming or photography within the cemetery will not interfere with normal cemetery operations, disrupt the peaceful ambiance of the cemetery or violate a family's expressed desire for privacy. Casual photography and video/filming on cemetery grounds is permitted for personal, non-commercial, non-professional purposes without special permission in advance.

Scheduled funerals, programs and events on cemetery grounds take priority over all photography, videography and filming. Photographers and videographers who have not contacted Parks & Recreation staff in advance may be asked to stop and/or move to another location.

- All photography and video/filming must take place between dawn and dusk.
- Video/filming or photography of individual headstones and markers, committal services and burials by family members, the news media or the public will be allowed if done in a respectful manner.
- News media should contact the Parks & Recreation Director or his/her designee in advance to conduct a news story or to cover a committal service or interment.
- Restrictions on news media may be implemented by the Parks & Recreation Director or his/her designee in order to comply with the wishes of family members, or to maintain decorum.
- News media are not required to reimburse the cemetery for expenses incurred while covering a newsworthy event in the public interest.

B. Entertainment/Commercial Requests

- Video/filming or photography for entertainment or commercial purposes is permitted under limited circumstances.

- The video/film company must fill out and sign a City Video/Photography Request Form which must be approved before any video, filming or photography may begin. An approved request form is required 30 days prior to filming/photography event.
- The video/film company must contact the Parks & Recreation event staff and fill out the request form in advance to request permission and schedule the date/time of the video or photography project.
- If using a drone, must have a licensed drone operator and show the license. Also must show FAA clearance to operate in the airspace.
- Video/filming or photography within the cemetery will not interfere with normal cemetery operations, disrupt the peaceful ambiance of the cemetery or violate a family's expressed desire for privacy.