

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-3

Introduced by William Biddlecombe

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT VIDEO POLICY.

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio recently enacted ORC 149.43(B)(1) allowing a local law enforcement agency to charge a requestor the actual cost associated with preparing a video record for inspection or production, which includes retrieval, download, review, redaction, seeking legal advice regarding, and producing the record; and

WHEREAS, due to the increasing number of requests received by the City of Huron requesting video records and the increasing amount of time required to produce such records, the institution of a video policy to recoup the associated costs is reasonable and necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO:

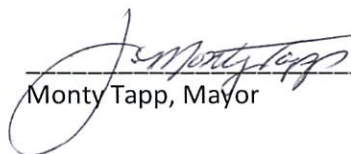
SECTION 1. That the policy set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereon shall be, and hereby is, established as the Huron Police Department Video Policy.

SECTION 2. That the various municipal personnel handling public records requests received by the City of Huron shall, henceforth, act in accordance with such policy.

SECTION 3. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including O.R.C. §121.22.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the City, and for the further reasons that it is necessary to make immediate provision for the sound financial operation of the City and in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption

ATTEST: 
Clerk of Council


Monty Tapp, Mayor

ADOPTED: 14 APR 2026

CITY OF HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Video Policy

Ohio law provides:

When considering whether a state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office promptly prepared a video record for inspection or produced a copy of a video record within a reasonable period of time, in addition to any other factors, a court shall consider the time required for a state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office to retrieve, download, review, redact, seek legal advice regarding, and produce the video record. Except as specified in division (B)(11) of this section, notwithstanding any other requirement set forth in Chapter 149. of the Revised Code, a state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office may charge a requester the **actual cost** associated with preparing a video record for inspection or production, **not to exceed seventy-five dollars per hour of video produced, nor seven hundred fifty dollars total**. As used in this division, "actual cost," with respect to video records only, means all costs incurred by the state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office in reviewing, blurring or otherwise obscuring, redacting, uploading, or producing the video records, including but not limited to the storage medium on which the record is produced, **staff time**, and any other relevant overhead necessary to comply with the request. **A state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office may include in its public records policy the requirement that a requester pay the estimated actual cost before beginning the process of preparing a video record for inspection or production. Where a state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office imposes such a requirement, its obligation to produce a video or make it available for inspection begins once the estimated actual cost is paid in full by the requester.** A state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office shall provide the requester with the estimated actual cost within five business days of receipt of the public records request. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated actual cost, a state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office may charge a requester for the difference upon fulfilling a request for video records if the requester is notified in advance that the actual cost may be up to twenty per cent higher than the estimated actual cost. A state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office shall not charge a requester a difference that exceeds twenty per cent of the estimated actual cost." (Emphasis added.) ORC 149.43(B)(1). <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-149.43>

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for recouping the costs to redact and obscure portions of police video and audio before providing the video to the public. The City administration believes it is unfair for Huron taxpayers to subsidize electronic platforms in their public exploitation of others for profit. Therefore, importantly, (i) Huron residents, (ii) individuals or entities identified in the relevant Huron police report, and (iii) traditional news media, whether broadcast, print, or electronic, will be exempt from this charge.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Huron Police Department to require payment to produce police video in response to public records requests. The Ohio Revised Code (outlined above) expressly authorizes this charge, which will enable the city to recoup its actual cost of production.

PROCEDURE

- (a) Huron Police, as authorized by ORC § 149.43, charges \$75.00 per video hour spent preparing a video for release.
- (b) Video will only be prepared for release upon payment of a \$150.00 deposit for each request, and actual costs shall be billed against this deposit, with any excess being returned to the requester, and any amounts due that exceed the deposit shall be paid to the City prior to release of the requested records to the requester.
- (c) Requestors who are Huron residents, individuals who are named in a police report, and traditional news media are exempt from payment for video requests.
 - 1. Requests for an exemption will be reviewed as quickly as possible.
 - 2. Any request that is denied may be appealed for final decision to the City Manager within 10 days of the denial.
- (d) This policy does not apply to discovery in criminal proceedings.
 - 1. This has no impact on any duty of City prosecutors to produce records, including police video, to defendants under the rules of criminal procedure or to victims of crime under any statute or law.
- (e) Requests for police video and exemptions will be submitted through the Clerk of Council for the city of Huron.

FEES

\$75.00 per video hour to be spent preparing video for production, total amount not to exceed \$750.00 per requested video.