

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 204 INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ANTONIO FRENCH,**  
2 **PRESIDENT LEWIS REED**

3 An ordinance requiring the recording of all public meetings of the St. Louis Board  
4 of Aldermen, including committee meetings; the Board of Estimate & Apportionment;  
5 the Board of Public Service; and the Preservation Board; making such recordings  
6 publicly available; containing definitions; distribution of recordings; the creation of a  
7 YouTube Channel; exceptions; and an effective date.

8 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

9 **SECTION ONE. Findings.**

10 It is hereby found, determined and declared by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St.  
11 Louis that publicly available video recordings or transcripts of public meetings promotes  
12 transparency and public trust in government. It also finds that publicly available video  
13 recordings or transcripts promote civic engagement, especially amongst parents, workers,  
14 and the disabled who cannot physically attend public meetings. It also finds that video  
15 recordings or transcripts may aid and improve judicial interpretation of legislation.

16 **SECTION TWO. Definitions**

17 A. Public Meeting: any meeting at which public business is discussed, decided, or  
18 public policy formulated, whether conducted in person or by means of electronic  
19 communications equipment. "Public meeting" does not include informal gatherings of  
20 officials for ministerial or social purposes where there is no intent to avoid the  
21 requirements of this bill.

1 B. Closed Meeting: the portion of a public meeting that is not open to the public as  
2 provided for by R.S. Mo. § 610.021.

3 C. Transcript: a written reproduction of the complete audio of a public meeting.

4 D. Video Recording: the electronic capture and storage of video and audio of a  
5 public meeting in a manner sufficient to enable review.

6 E. Website: the Internet location where the St. Louis Board of Aldermen posts  
7 official information for public access.

8 **SECTION THREE. Recording public meetings**

9 Any public meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, the Board of Estimate &  
10 Apportionment, the Board of Public Service, and the Preservation Board shall be  
11 recorded by video or transcript. A video recording shall include audio from the  
12 proceeding.

13 **SECTION FOUR. Distribution of recording to the public**

14 Any recording created under Section Three herein shall be made available free of charge  
15 on the official website of the respective body. Recordings shall be permanently archived  
16 on the website and shall not be removed.

17 **SECTION FIVE. Official YouTube Channel of the City of St. Louis**

18 Any recording created under Section Three herein shall also be made available on an  
19 official City of St. Louis channel on the video sharing website, YouTube  
20 ([www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)). This channel shall be maintained by the Communications  
21 Division. Videos shall be posted within three business days of the public meeting. All

1 videos shall be viewable to the public with embedding capabilities activated so that  
2 citizens and news organizations can repost the videos on their own websites.

3 **SECTION SIX. Exceptions for closed meetings**

4 Except as otherwise required by law, no recording shall be created or distributed when a  
5 public meeting is deemed to be a closed meeting. If a public meeting is partially closed  
6 and partially open, the open portion shall be recorded and distributed in accordance with  
7 this bill.

8 **SECTION SEVEN. Effective Date**

9 This Ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2014.