

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 299 INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ANTONIO FRENCH**

2 An ordinance revising The Transparency in Government Law, Ordinance 69707,  
3 codified at Chapter 3.115 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, to require the  
4 video recording of all public meetings of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, including  
5 committee meetings; the Board of Estimate & Apportionment; the Board of Public  
6 Service; and the Preservation Board.

7 **WHEREAS**, all of this bill’s changes and revisions to the existing ordinance as  
8 codified in the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis are shown in Exhibit A.

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

10 **SECTION ONE. Repeal of Section Two of Ordinance 69707.**

11 Section Two of Ordinance 69707 and Section 3.115.020 of the Revised Code of  
12 the City of St. Louis are hereby repealed.

13 **SECTION TWO. Definitions.**

14 A new Section Two of Ordinance 69707, which shall replace the current Section  
15 3.115.020 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, is hereby enacted and shall read  
16 as follows:

17 **Findings.**

18 It is hereby found, determined and declared by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St.  
19 Louis that publicly available recordings of public meetings promotes transparency and  
20 public trust in government. It also finds that publicly available video recordings promote  
21 civic engagement, especially amongst parents, workers, and the disabled who cannot  
22 physically attend public meetings. It also finds that recordings may aid and improve  
23 judicial interpretation of legislation, and provide lawmakers, future and present, with

1 valuable knowledge and history to make informed decisions on behalf of the people of St.  
2 Louis.

3 **SECTION THREE. Repeal of Section Three of Ordinance 69707.**

4 Section Three of Ordinance 69707 and Section 3.115.030 of the Revised Code of  
5 the City of St. Louis are hereby repealed.

6 **SECTION FOUR. Definitions.**

7 A new Section Three of Ordinance 69707, which shall replace the current Section  
8 3.115.030 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, is hereby enacted and shall read  
9 as follows:

10 **Definitions**

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

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

18 C. Video Recording: the electronic capture and storage of video and audio of  
19 a public meeting in a manner sufficient to enable review.

20 D. Website: the Internet location where the City of St. Louis posts official  
21 information for public access.

22 **SECTION FIVE. Repeal of Section Four of Ordinance 69707.**

23 Section Four of Ordinance 69707 and Section 3.115.040 of the Revised Code of

1 the City of St. Louis are hereby repealed.

2 **SECTION SIX. Recording public meetings.**

3 A new Section Four of Ordinance 69707, which shall replace the current Section  
4 3.115.040 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, is hereby enacted and shall read  
5 as follows:

6 **Recording public meetings.**

7 Any public meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, the Board of Estimate &  
8 Apportionment, the Board of Public Service, and the Preservation Board shall be  
9 recorded by video in its entirety. A video recording shall include audio from the  
10 proceeding.