

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 67AA INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ANTONIO**
2 **FRENCH, ALDERWOMAN DAVIS, ALDERMAN KENNEDY, ALDERMAN**
3 **VACCARO, AND ALDERMAN ARNOWITZ**

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

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

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

12 **SECTION ONE. Repeal of Section Four of Ordinance 69707.**

13 Section Four of Ordinance 69707 and Section 3.115.040 of the Revised Code of
14 the City of St. Louis are hereby repealed.

15 **SECTION TWO. Recording public meetings.**

16 A new Section Four of Ordinance 69707, which shall replace the current Section
17 3.115.040 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, is hereby enacted and shall read
18 as follows:

19 **Recording public meetings.**

20 Any public meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, the Board of Estimate &
21 Apportionment, and the Preservation Board shall be recorded by video in its entirety. A

- 1 video recording shall include audio from the proceeding. Any public meeting of the
- 2 Board of Public Service shall be recorded by audio or transcript in its entirety.

1 **EXHIBIT A TO BB NO. 67AA**

2 **ORDINANCE 69707**

3 **BOARD BILL NO. 204 CS INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ANTONIO**
4 **FRENCH, PRESIDENT LEWIS REED, ALDERMAN TERRY KENNEDY,**
5 **ALDERWOMAN SHARON TYUS, ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA,**
6 **ALDERMAN JOSEPH VACCARO**

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

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

13 **SECTION ONE. Title.**

14 **This ordinance shall be known as The Transparency in Government Law.**

15 **SECTION TWO. Findings.**

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

1 the people of St. Louis.

2 **SECTION THREE. Definitions**

3 A. Public Meeting: any meeting at which public business is discussed,
4 decided, or public policy formulated, whether conducted in person or by means of
5 electronic communications equipment. “Public meeting” does not include informal
6 gatherings of officials for ministerial or social purposes where there is no intent to avoid
7 the requirements of this bill.

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

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

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

14 E. Audio Recordings: the electronic capture and storage of audio of a public
15 meeting in a manner sufficient to enable review.

16 F. Website: the Internet location where the City of St. Louis posts official
17 information for public access.

18 **SECTION FOUR. Recording public meetings**

19 Any public meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, the Board of Estimate &
20 Apportionment, ~~the Board of Public Service,~~ and the Preservation Board shall be recorded
21 by video, ~~audio,~~ ~~or transcript~~ in its entirety. A video recording shall include audio from the
22 proceeding. [Any public meeting of the Board of Public Service shall be recorded by audio](#)
23 [or transcript in its entirety.](#)

1 **SECTION FIVE. Distribution of recording to the public**

2 Any recording created under Section Three herein shall be made available free of
3 charge on the official website of the respective body. Recordings shall be archived on the
4 website and shall be accessible by the public for a minimum of ten (10) years after the date
5 of the meeting.

6 **SECTION SIX. Official YouTube Channel of the City of St. Louis**

7 Any video recording created under Section Three herein shall also be made
8 available on an official City of St. Louis channel on the video sharing website, YouTube
9 (www.YouTube.com). This channel shall be maintained by the Communications Division.
10 Videos shall be posted within three business days of the public meeting. All videos shall be
11 viewable to the public with embedding capabilities activated so that citizens and news
12 organizations can repost the videos on their own websites.

13 **SECTION SEVEN. Exceptions for closed meetings**

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

18 **SECTION EIGHT. Effective Date**

19 This Ordinance shall take effect on April 15, 2014.

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