



Awhile back I sent a Part 2 follow up about those TikTok and YouTubers called "1st Amendment Auditors". Somehow, it disappeared, so I'm re-writing it now. As I said in part 1 back on March 10th, 2026, I'm very glad these auditors are out raising awareness that we still (maybe?) live in a free country, with a right to take pictures of anyone and anything we want out in public. They also remind us that when we're outside we rarely have the same privacy we enjoy in our homes. Although I emphatically want the Gubmint out of the public imaging business completely (I despise surveillance cameras, especially the ones pigs use to pad their doughnut funds by stealing hard-earned money from folks who cruise through yellow lights or drive 5mph too fast), I still fully and absolutely respect your right to take videos outside whenever you want, even if I'd rather not be in them.

I once stood on an LA streetcorner, taking pictures of some skyscraper. It was artistic, cool angle and dramatic lighting, and then some rent-a-cop waddled out to demand I stop photographing "his" building. I wish I could say I resisted more, but beyond a halfhearted argument against his thuggery, I just complied and went on my way. I was with a friend and didn't want to ruin our trip. But, had I been exposed to these brave and persistent auditors back then... oh, for sure I'd have made more noise. The auditors' lesson is one to remember whenever power whores are trying to control us.

All of this also reminds me of a distinctly less popular application of the right to record in public. There have been way too many cases in recent years of people being run out of public parks, sometimes by cops, just for taking pictures of a youth sports league where some parent objected to his/her kid being photographed or filmed. I half sympathize with these guardians, but here's the thing — you are out in public. In public, you might be recorded by someone. By anyone. Hell, by everyone. There is no — and should be no — exception to this reality, this feature of civic life in a free country, for people who happen to be under, or over, or in-between, any particular ages. Babies in public can be filmed, same as their elderly grandparents. The great shame now is, some kids think that their aggressive parents gets to decide who may or may not look at them when they step outside the home bubble. That's absolutely not the type of lesson young people should be absorbing, lest they grow up completely Karen-ized and ready to call the manager, or the Mounties, on a whim, eager to surrender their own freedoms and yours too at the first request of a man with a badge.

