Subject: Policy on Prohibition of Viewing Pornography on Government Networks and Devices	Manual: Administrative
Policy Number: 23	City Council Approval: TBA
Issued By: Chris Jones, Technology & Innovation Director	City Manager: Ritchie Haynes, City Manager

Section I-Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines to prohibit the viewing of pornography on the City of Lincolnton's networks and devices, in compliance with North Carolina General Statute § 143-805.

Section II-Scope

This policy applies to all employees, elected officials, and appointees associated with the City of Lincolnton.

Section III - Definitions

- **Pornography**: As defined in NCGS § 143-805(g)(2), "material that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement."

- **Network**: As defined in NCGS § 143-805(g)(3), "any system, whether public or private, that allows computers to exchange data."

- **Device**: Any equipment owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the City of Lincolnton, including but not limited to computers, smartphones, tablets, and other electronic devices.

Section IV-Policy

1. **Prohibition on Viewing Pornography**

   - Employees are prohibited from viewing pornography on the City of Lincolnton 's network.

   - Employees, elected officials, appointees, and students are prohibited from viewing pornography on devices owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the City of Lincolnton.

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2. **Exceptions**

The prohibitions outlined above do not apply to officials or employees engaged in the following activities as part of their official duties:

- Investigating or prosecuting crimes, participating in law enforcement training, or performing actions related to other law enforcement purposes.

- Identifying potential security or cybersecurity threats.

- Protecting human life.

- Establishing, testing, and maintaining firewalls, protocols, and implementing this policy.

- Participating in judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings.

- Conducting or participating in externally funded research projects at constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.

- Researching issues related to drafting or analyzing state laws as necessary to fulfill official duties.

These exceptions are in accordance with NCGS § 143-805(d).

3. **Monitoring and Reporting**

- While the City of Lincolnton is not required to actively monitor devices or networks for compliance, any known violations of this policy must be reported to the State Chief Information Officer (CIO) as mandated by NCGS § 143-805(f).

4. **Disciplinary Actions**

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or appointment. Specific disciplinary measures will be determined based on the severity and nature of the violation.

Section V- Implementation

This policy is effective immediately and must be communicated to all current and new employees, elected officials, appointees, and students associated with the City of Lincolnton.
Section 6 - Review and Updates

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The City of Lincolnton will review this policy annually and make necessary updates to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations.

Note: This policy is in compliance with North Carolina General Statute § 143-805, which requires public agencies to prohibit the viewing of pornography on government networks and devices and to adopt corresponding policies by January 1, 2025.

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