



# Ground Rules for Media Coverage: Titan Marine Board of Investigation Hearing

## 1. Credentialing and Check-In:

All media representatives must be credentialed to attend the hearings. Media must RSVP by Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, to Chief Warrant Officer Melissa Leake, public information officer, at [mediarelations@uscg.mil](mailto:mediarelations@uscg.mil). Credentials will be verified at the check-in desk upon arrival at the Charleston County Council Building, and all media will need to go through the security checkpoint. Your name must be on the list to receive access.

## 2. Media Pool Access:

To facilitate fair and balanced live coverage of the proceedings, a media pool will be established, allowing one physical cameraman, one journalist, one still photographer and one sound technician inside the hearing chamber each day. Media outlets selected for the pool are required to share the live feed, imagery and sound with all other media representatives. Media representatives are responsible for organizing the pooling schedule and managing rotations based on mutual agreement. A maximum of two rotations will be permitted per day to minimize disruptions.

## 3. Video and Photography Restrictions:

- No close-up images or videos of family members of the victims are allowed during the hearings. This is to respect the sensitivity of the situation and protect the privacy of the families involved.
- Cameras should remain focused on the proceedings, the witnesses and the board members. Wide-angle shots that capture the room's general layout are permitted, but no tight shots of family members of the victims.
- Flash photography is prohibited inside the hearing chamber to minimize disruption.

## 4. Audio Recording Guidelines:

Sound technicians in the media pool are responsible for capturing clear audio of the hearings. All media outlets must share audio recordings with other media representatives. No independent audio devices are allowed in the hearing room outside of the designated pool equipment.

## 5. Media Viewing Room Conduct:

A separate room will be provided for media representatives to view the hearings via a live feed. Journalists in the viewing room are encouraged to conduct interviews and live reports outside the designated areas to maintain a quiet environment for other working journalists.

## 6. Live Reporting and Social Media:

Journalists are permitted to provide live updates from outside the Charleston County Council Chamber or inside the designated conference room. Please use the hashtag #TitanMBI when posting on social media to maintain a consistent narrative. Inside the hearing chamber, mobile phones must be set to silent, and no live-streaming from personal devices is allowed.

## 7. Entry and Exit Procedures:

Media representatives must enter and exit the hearing chamber quietly and only during designated breaks. Once the hearings are in session, doors to the chamber will be closed to minimize disturbances.

## 8. Respectful Conduct:

All media personnel are expected to conduct themselves respectfully. Disruptive behavior, including shouting questions or obstructing pathways, will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the premises.

**9. Security Compliance:**

All media must comply with security checks upon entering the Charleston County Council Building. Security personnel have the authority to inspect bags and equipment. Media representatives are required to follow all instructions given by security personnel at all times.

**10. Post-Hearing Access:**

Following each day's hearing, a designated spokesperson will be available to answer procedural questions outside the hearing room. Additional interviews or questions should be directed to the Public Information Officer.

**11. Consequences for Non-Compliance:**

Failure to adhere to these ground rules will result in immediate revocation of media credentials and removal from the premises. Persistent violations may lead to a ban from future hearings and events hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a respectful and orderly environment for these important proceedings.

For further information or clarification on these ground rules, please contact Chief Warrant Officer Melissa Leake at [Mediarelations@uscg.mil](mailto:Mediarelations@uscg.mil).

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