



A Report on MPD's Use of

Body-Worn Cameras

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Chief of Police



Pursuant to the *Body-Worn Camera Regulation and Reporting Requirements Act of 2015*, Title III Subtitle A of the *Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Support Act of 2015* (Act 21-0148), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is required to publish data on its Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program beginning October 2015, and every six months thereafter. This report is provided in compliance with the Act.

Overview of MPD Body-Worn Camera Program

The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) will benefit members of the community and the Department by improving police services, increasing accountability for individual interactions, and strengthening police-community relations. In October 2014, the Department launched Phase I of the body-worn camera program, focusing on the selection of the best camera model for the members of MPD. After evaluating five different models with a total of 400 cameras, MPD selected models provided by Taser that allow officers to annotate video in the field, without taking officers off the street.

Phase II of the body-worn camera program was launched on June 29, 2015. All of the cameras that had been tested in Phase I were exchanged for 400 of the selected model. These were distributed to the Fifth and Seventh Police Districts, with each receiving 200 new cameras. This deployment was designed by a team of national researchers who will analyze the impact of body-worn cameras on such issues as citizen complaints, use of force, and other measurable outcomes. The lessons and findings of this evaluation will benefit District residents, MPD, and law enforcement agencies and communities across the country that are also considering the use of body-worn cameras.

In March 2016, the Department started Phase III of the body-worn camera program. By June 30, 2016, a total of more than 1,200 body-worn cameras had been deployed. This phase of deployment was designed by the academics conducting the formal body-worn camera study. For Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, half of all eligible patrol members received a camera by the end of May 2016. The study period will last until December 2016, when the remaining eligible patrol members will receive their cameras.

In addition, the Department was awarded \$1 million by the U.S. Department of Justice to support an expansion of its body-worn camera program. Body-worn cameras are part of President Barack Obama's commitment to build trust and transparency between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The grant to MPD will fund the deployment of approximately 500 BWCs to the MPD Training Academy so that all members participating in training – both new recruits and veteran members – will have an awareness of and increased proficiency with the cameras. Establishing the muscle memory for camera activation is key to the program.

Starting with Phase I, the Department received FOIA requests for body-worn camera videos. Four of five of these initial requests were declined due to the Department's inability to redact the videos at that time due to technical limitations. Once the Council passed legislation in December

2015 addressing issues such as privacy and access, MPD was able to sufficiently define parameters to develop a request for information (RFIs) to survey the industry and understand existing capabilities and cost models. At that time, the Department took a multipronged approach to address the need to redact videos. As a temporary measure, the Department developed a working relationship with a redaction vendor to provide a la carte redactions. As a result of this RFI, the Department is considering different contracting options like blanket purchase agreements (BPA) so as to contract with multiple vendors to provide redaction services.

Response to Reporting Requirements for January 1 through June 30, 2016

Reporting Requirement	Response (Jan 1, 2016 - Jun 30, 2016)
How many hours of BWC recordings were collected?	Hours: 47,409
How many times did BWCs fail while officers were on shift and what were the reasons for the failures?	Incidents of reported BWC failure: 129 <u>Reasons for failure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broken hardware/cords (AXON Flex) ○ Battery charging issues ○ General hardware malfunction
How many times were internal investigations opened for a failure to turn on BWCs during interactions?	Internal investigations ¹ : 103 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Misconduct Dismissed: 1 ○ Exonerated: 17 ○ Insufficient Facts: 4 ○ Sustained: 80 ○ Unfounded: 1
How many times were BWC recordings used by MPD in internal affairs investigations?	Internal affairs investigations: 286
How many times were BWC recordings used by MPD to investigate complaints made by an individual or group?	Investigatory complaints: 30

¹ With the initial Department wide implementation, there was a greater frequency of failures as members became familiar with the technology. Since that time there has been a steady decrease in sustained cases.

Reporting Requirement	Response (Jan 1, 2016 - Jun 30, 2016)																																
<p>How many body-worn cameras were assigned to each police district and police unit for the reporting period?</p>	<p>As of June 30, 2016 there were 1,242 BWCs assigned, including 827 new BWCs as a result of Phase 3.1 deployment</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="867 394 1328 709"> <thead> <tr> <th>UNIT</th> <th>#</th> <th>UNIT</th> <th>#</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1D</td> <td>103</td> <td>6D</td> <td>112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1D1</td> <td>36</td> <td>6D1</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2D</td> <td>137</td> <td>7D</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3D</td> <td>133</td> <td>Nightlife</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4D</td> <td>97</td> <td>NSID</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4D1</td> <td>38</td> <td>MPA</td> <td>131</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5D</td> <td>196</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	UNIT	#	UNIT	#	1D	103	6D	112	1D1	36	6D1	40	2D	137	7D	175	3D	133	Nightlife	25	4D	97	NSID	19	4D1	38	MPA	131	5D	196		
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<p>How many Freedom of Information Act requests did MPD receive for body-worn camera recordings during the reporting period? What was the outcome of each request, including any reasons for denial?</p>	<p>Eighteen (18) new FOIA requests in this reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closed: 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Two: Directed to MPD’s public posting of redacted videos on YouTube.² These videos are from a mayoral release.³ o Two: Provided a Google link with their recordings o Seven: No responsive videos found o Four: Denied due to open investigation - Open: 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MPD is working with the vendors to complete these requests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In one of the open cases, 23 videos have already been posted to MPD’s YouTube channel. 																																

² The Department posts redacted recording to the MPD FOIA YouTube channel when a third party (e.g. journalist, non-profit organization, other) requests the recording. These recordings are fully redacted to protect the privacy of those involved. See Metropolitan Police Department Body Worn Camera FOIA Videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKTnjBcRgRHw4XvIs6Jc1Q>

³ The Mayor may, on a case-by-case basis in matters of significant public interest and after consultation with the Chief of Police, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, and the Office of the Attorney General, release BWC recordings that would otherwise not be releasable pursuant to a FOIA request. Examples of matters of significant public interest include officer-involved shootings, serious use of force by an officer, and assaults on an officer requiring hospitalization. 24 DCMR § 3900.10 (2016).