



*A Report on MPD's Use of*

# Body-Worn Cameras

January 1 - June 30, 2019



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Chief of Police



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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 bi-annually. This report is provided in compliance with the Act.

## MPD Body-Worn Camera Program

The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) benefits members of the community and the Department by improving police services, increasing accountability and transparency for individual interactions, and strengthening police-community relations. As of June 2019, more than 3,200 BWCs were deployed to full-duty officers and sergeants in public contact positions in all police districts and other specialized units, and lieutenants and captains in patrol.

The BWC program is invaluable in building trust with the community by promoting transparency and accountability. The videos are essential to reassuring communities that MPD is accountable in policing. We are committed to ensuring our presence is supportive of our vibrant communities. The cameras also support training efforts and help improve efficiency in internal investigations as there is documented evidence present to support or refute claims.

The MPD is pleased to be at the forefront of major city police departments using BWCs. Our officers have been eager to use this new technology, which has not been the case in some other police departments. The willingness of MPD officers to be early adopters of this technology demonstrates their strong commitment to safeguarding and providing the best service to our residents.

## Data

### Data Responses (January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019)

- 1. How many hours of BWC recordings were collected?** (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(1))

There were 259,634 hours of BWC recordings collected during the reporting period.

- 2. How many times did BWCs fail while officers were on shift and what were the reasons for the failures?** (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(2))

While the exact reasons BWCs fail cannot always be determined, the below chart represents the Department's best interpretation after assessing each failure.

To reduce down time due to BWC failures, unassigned BWCs are positioned at all major deployment locations.

Reasons for Failure <sup>1</sup>	#
Battery charging Issues	11
General hardware failure	23
Physical damage	17
Lost	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**3. How many times were internal investigations opened for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions? (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(3))**

There were 318 internal investigations opened for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019. This represents three-hundredths of one percent of camera activations, or less than one investigation per every 1,000 videos. The outcomes of the investigations during this reporting period are noted in the table below.

Outcomes	#
Exonerated <sup>2</sup>	35
Sustained <sup>3</sup>	256
Insufficient Facts <sup>4</sup>	1
Incident Summary Numbers Cancelled <sup>5</sup>	20
Unfounded <sup>6</sup>	4
Open Investigation <sup>7</sup>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>

**4. How many times were BWC recordings used by MPD in internal affairs investigations? (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(4))**

There were 12,989 BWC video recordings used for internal investigations during this reporting period. Some videos may also be used in investigations addressed under question 5.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this question, failure accounts for when an officer is on shift and the body-worn camera does not work, is not activated, or does not record the event because of a specific camera related issue.

<sup>2</sup> Where a preponderance of the evidence shows that the alleged conduct did occur, but did not violate MPD policies, procedures, or training. G.O. 120.23 Serious Misconduct Investigations.

<sup>3</sup> Where the person's allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence to determine that the incident occurred and the actions of the officer were improper. G.O. 120.23 Serious Misconduct Investigations.

<sup>4</sup> Where there are insufficient facts to decide whether the alleged misconduct occurred. G.O. 120.23 Serious Misconduct Investigations.

<sup>5</sup> Occurs when an internal investigation is initially started but then cancelled; for example, because the incident summary numbers were duplicative.

<sup>6</sup> When the investigation determined that there are no facts to support the incident complained of actually occurred. G.O. 120.23 Serious Misconduct Investigations.

<sup>7</sup> The investigation had not reached a conclusion as of June 30, 2019.

**5. How many times were BWC recordings used by MPD to investigate complaints made by an individual or group? (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(5))**

There were 1,418 BWC video recordings used by the Office of Police Complaints (OPC) to investigate external complaints during this reporting period.

Pursuant to the *Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2016* (D.C. Law 21-125, D.C. Official Code § 5-1104), OPC is now responsible for handling almost all external complaints.

**6. How many body-worn cameras were assigned to each police district and police unit for the reporting period? (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(6))**

As of June 30, 2019, there were 3,214 body-worn cameras assigned to the following units.

Unit	#
1D	342
2D	313
3D	330
4D	322
5D	338
6D	339
7D	353
<b>District Total</b>	<b>2,337</b>
Criminal Investigations Division	19
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	25
Metropolitan Police Academy	144
Narcotics and Special Investigations Division	165
Other <sup>8</sup>	165
School Safety Division	113
Special Operations Division	172
Strategic Change Division	22
Youth and Family Services Division	52
<b>Non-District Total</b>	<b>877</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 6/30/19)</b>	<b>3,214</b>

**7. How many Freedom of Information Act requests did MPD receive for body-worn cameras recordings during the reporting period? What was the outcome of each request, including any reasons for denial? What was the cost to the department for complying with each request, including redaction? (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(7))**

<sup>8</sup> Includes but not limited to members in the Corporate Support Bureau and members in administrative roles.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2019, MPD received 151 FOIA requests. The outcomes of each request are noted in the table below.

Disposition	#
<b>Closed</b>	<b>93</b>
Granted in full <sup>9</sup>	0
Granted in part <sup>10</sup>	23
Denied in full <sup>11</sup>	14
No responsive video found <sup>12</sup>	12
Duplicate request <sup>13</sup>	13
Referred to other agency <sup>14</sup>	2
Withdrawn <sup>15</sup>	29
<b>Open (6/30/2019)</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>

Between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2018, the total costs of BWC redactions associated with FOIA requests was: \$147,435.

**8. How many recordings were assigned to each body-worn camera recording category?**  
(D.C. Official Code § 5-116.33(a)(8))

The number of recordings represents the number of times a BWC video has been categorized between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019. One BWC video may carry multiple categories. The event type category represents MPD member interactions with the community. Administrative tracking assists with identifying and categorizing specific tasks related to police events.

Category	# of Recordings
<b>Event Type</b>	
Incident, No Arrest	602,384
All Other Misdemeanors	130,674
Contact / Stop	99,378
All Other Felonies	61,684
Traffic Stop	19,289

<sup>9</sup> There were no redactions made to the requested video footage.

<sup>10</sup> Some redactions were made to the requested video footage.

<sup>11</sup> The footage pertained to ongoing investigations, juvenile records, or the video was from inside a personal residence.

<sup>12</sup> Videos were purged in accordance with the Department’s retention schedule.

<sup>13</sup> The requestor made an identical request under a different FOIA reference number that is already in process.

<sup>14</sup> Sometimes requests are referred to other agencies because the footage pertains to access to information under their purview.

<sup>15</sup> The Department’s FOIA office may have requested additional information from the requester to which the requester did not respond.

Category	# of Recordings
Search or Arrest Warrant	10,969
First Amendment Assembly	1,935
Murder / Manslaughter	1,888
All Other Sexual Offenses	1,460
Death Report / Suicide	1,182
Warrantless Search	715
First and Second Degree Sexual Assault	576
Forcible Entry	286
Consent Search	197
Crime Involving a Public Official Misdemeanor	156
Found Shell Casings	135
Crime Involving a Public Official Felony	42
<b>Administrative Tracking</b>	
Video Testing	116,900
Vehicle Inspection	59,029
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	46,155
Court Liaison Division	29,616
Internal Investigations	12,011
Youth & Family Services Division	1,545
Office of Police Complaints	1,396
Recruit Training	928
Citizen Viewing	525
Freedom of Information Act	483
Civil Litigation	426
Redaction	229
Other Miscellaneous	166
Internal Affairs Division	166
Training	108
Pending/Supervisory Review	30