



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with 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), please find attached Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) data on the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program. The report provides responses to the following reporting requirements pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 5-116.33 for the time period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

- How many hours of body-worn camera recordings were collected;
- How many times body-worn cameras failed while officers were on shift and the reasons for the failures;
- How many times internal investigations were opened for a failure to turn on body-worn cameras during interactions;
- How many times body-worn camera recordings were used by MPD in internal affairs investigations;
- How many body-worn cameras are assigned to each police district and police unit for the reporting period;
- How many Freedom of Information Act requests the Metropolitan Police Department received for body-worn camera recordings during the reporting period, and the outcome of each request; and
- How many recordings were assigned to each body-worn camera recording category.

The BWC program has been an invaluable asset for building trust with the community by promoting transparency and accountability. MPD is pleased to be at the forefront of major city police department in using BWCs. To that end, this reporting period reflects 3,270 assigned body-worn cameras throughout the Department.

Please contact Robert J. Contee III, Acting Chief of Police, at 202-727-4218 or robert.contee@dc.gov, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Contee III
Acting Chief of Police



A Report on MPD's Use of

Body-Worn Cameras

January 1 — June 31, 2020



Robert J. Contee, III
Acting 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 2020, 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 technology. 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, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

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

There were 232,098 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))

The exact reasons BWCs fail and the timing of the failure cannot always be determined. MPD policy requires that officers conduct a test shot with the BWC at the beginning of their shift to ensure it is functioning. The below chart represents the Body Worn Camera Coordinator's best interpretation after assessing each BWC processed for failure or damage.

To reduce down time due to BWC failures, unassigned BWCs are positioned at all major deployment locations. The Department also recently has updated the camera model to the

Axon Body 3. The new camera model has a wider field of vision, an extra microphone, and extended battery life.

Reasons for Failure ¹	#
Battery charging Issues	27
General hardware failure	31
Physical damage	11
Total	69

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 118 internal investigations opened for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020. The outcomes of the investigations during this reporting period are noted in the table below.

Outcomes	#
Exonerated ²	7
Sustained ³	76
Incident Summary Numbers Cancelled ⁴	3
Unfounded ⁵	2
Open Investigation	30
Total	118

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 9,397 BWC video recordings used for internal investigations during this reporting period. Some videos may also be used in investigations addressed under question 5.

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))

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Occurs when an internal investigation is initially started but then cancelled; for example, because the incident summary numbers were duplicative.

⁵ When the investigation determined that there are no facts to support the incident complained of actually occurred. G.O. 120.23 Serious Misconduct Investigations.

There were 1,050 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 July 1, 2020 there were 3,270 body-worn cameras assigned to the following units.

Unit	#
1D	333
2D	313
3D	323
4D	325
5D	346
6D	368
7D	369
District Total	2,377
Criminal Investigations Division	23
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	34
Metropolitan Police Academy	147
Narcotics and Special Investigations Division	141
Other ⁶	204
School Safety Division	104
Special Operations Division	171
Strategic Change Division	15
Youth and Family Services Division	54
Non-District Total	893
DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 07/01/20)	3,270

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))

Between January 1 and June 30, 2020 MPD received 180 FOIA requests. The outcomes of each request are noted in the table below.

⁶ Includes but not limited to members in the Corporate Support Bureau and members in administrative roles.

Disposition	#
Closed (reflect from prior year)	203
Granted in full ⁷	0
Granted in part ⁸	108
Denied in full ⁹	22
No responsive video found ¹⁰	22
Duplicate request ¹¹	8
Referred to another agency ¹²	3
Fee related ¹³	1
Improper FOIA request ¹⁴	1
Non agency record ¹⁵	1
Withdrawn ¹⁶	36
Open (6/30/20)	23
Total	203

Between, January 1 and June 30, 2020, the total cost of outsourcing BWC redactions associated with all FOIA requests was \$147,720.

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 and June 30, 2020. Each video is required to be tagged with the most

⁷ There were no redactions made to the requested video footage.

⁸ Some redactions were made to the requested video footage.

⁹ The footage pertained to ongoing investigations, juvenile records, sexual assault, domestic violence or the video was from inside a personal residence.

¹⁰ Video responsive to the request may not have existed or may be outside the Department's retention schedule.

¹¹ The requestor made an identical request under a different FOIA reference number that is already in process.

¹² Sometimes requests are referred to other agencies because the footage pertains to access to information under their purview.

¹³ The requestor did not respond to the Department's request to pay.

¹⁴ The requestor did not provide all of the information needed to fulfill the request.

¹⁵ Refers to a request for a record not maintained by MPD.

¹⁶ The Department's FOIA office may have requested additional information from the requester to which the requester did not respond and/or the requester decided they are no longer interested in receiving the video and advise the FOIA office of such.

serious offense but 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
Event Type	
Incident, No Arrest	544,136
All Other Misdemeanors	103,012
All Other Felonies	59,781
Contact / Stop	56,972
Traffic Stop	39,627
Search or Arrest Warrant	6,588
First Amendment Assembly	5,696
Murder / Manslaughter	2,721
Death Report / Suicide	1,693
Warrantless Search	1,048
All Other Sexual Offenses	923
First and Second Degree Sexual Assault	371
Forcible Entry	293
Found Shell Casings	217
Crime Involving a Public Official Misdemeanor	97
Consent Search	93
Crime Involving a Public Official Felony	31
Administrative Tracking	
Video Testing	149,673
Vehicle Inspection	76,401
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	35,734
Court Liaison Division	24,084
Internal Investigations	9,397
Internal Affairs Division	2,702
Office of Police Complaints	1,050
Youth & Family Services Division	781
Freedom of Information Act	504
Civil Litigation	150
Recruit Training	141
Citizen Viewing	95
Pending/Supervisory Review	62
Training	31
Redaction	3