



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

January 31, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 3004 of the Body-Worn Camera Regulation and Reporting Requirements Act of 2015, effective October 22, 2015 (D.C. Law 21-36; D.C. Official Code § 5-116.33), please find enclosed the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) biannual report on the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program. The report provides data for the following reporting requirements for the time period of January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021:

- 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, and the results of those internal investigations, including any discipline imposed;
- 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 departments in using BWCs. To that end, this reporting period reflects 3,140 assigned body-worn cameras throughout the Department.

Please contact Chief of Police Robert J. Contee III at [robert.contee@dc.gov](mailto:robert.contee@dc.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser  
Enclosures



A Report on MPD's Use of

# Body-Worn Cameras

January 1 — June 30, 2021



Robert J. Contee, III  
Chief of Police



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Pursuant to section 3004 of the Body-Worn Camera Regulation and Reporting Requirements Act of 2015 (D.C. Law 21-36; D.C. Official Code § 5-116.33, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is required to publish data on its Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program biannually. 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 30, 2021, more than 3,100 BWCs were deployed to sworn members in public contact positions with the rank of captain and below.

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, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

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

There were 191,435 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 so that officers may more quickly replace any malfunctioning device. The Department has also updated the camera model to the Axon Body 3 as of September 1, 2020. The new camera model has a wider field of vision, an extra microphone, and extended battery life. In the first half of 2021, there were 59 failures out of 781,313 videos recorded in the period.

Reasons for Failure <sup>1</sup>	#
Battery charging Issues	26
General hardware failure	29
Physical damage	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</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))

Between January 1 and June 30, 2021, MPD opened 123 internal investigations for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions. The outcomes (as of November 30<sup>th</sup>) as defined in General Order (GO) 120.23 Serious Misconduct Investigations, of the investigations opened during this reporting period are noted in the table below. Disciplinary procedures for sustained cases are based on GO 120.21 Disciplinary Procedures and Processes. The discipline noted below may be in combination with higher level misconduct or would include assessment of mitigating or aggravating factors.

Outcomes	Discipline	#
<b>Exonerated<sup>2</sup></b>		5
<b>Sustained<sup>3</sup></b>	<i>No Action/No Discipline<sup>4</sup></i>	30
	<i>Education-based development<sup>5</sup></i>	33
	<i>Corrective Action<sup>6</sup></i>	43
	<i>Job Performance Documentation<sup>7</sup></i>	4
	<i>Member Separated<sup>8</sup></i>	3
	<i>Suspended without Pay (SWOP)</i>	1
	<i>Termination<sup>9</sup></i>	0
<b>IS # Cancelled<sup>10</sup></b>		0
<b>Tracking Only<sup>11</sup></b>		4

<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.

<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.

<sup>4</sup> Investigation determined that it is a first offense with no aggravating circumstances or negative consequences to the public or the Department so no discipline is assessed. Education-based development, however, may be assessed.

<sup>5</sup> An alternative to discipline offered to sworn members in lieu of corrective action or a recommended suspension of one to ten days. The program focuses on re-training the member.

<sup>6</sup> Consists of unit-level discipline including a PD750 Dereliction Report, letter of prejudice, or official reprimand.

<sup>7</sup> Department form (PD-62) that supervisors may use to record observations of subordinate's job-related behaviors.

<sup>8</sup> The member left the Department prior to the imposition of discipline or prior to the investigation being completed.

<sup>9</sup> The member was fired for the conduct.

<sup>10</sup> Occurs when an internal investigation is initially started but then cancelled; for example, because the incident summary numbers were duplicative.

<sup>11</sup> Takedowns with no injury or complaint of pain are considered reportable force incidents for which members must complete a Force Incident Report that is reviewed by the Watch Commander. These cases are closed as "tracking only" unless the Watch Commander, Internal Affairs Division, or other official identifies a need for additional investigation.

Outcomes	Discipline	#
Open Investigation		0
Unfounded <sup>12</sup>		0
Grand Total		123

**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 8,388 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))

There were 1,206 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, 2021, there were 3,140 body-worn cameras assigned to the following units.

Unit	#
1D	306
2D	292
3D	312
4D	308
5D	328
6D	355
7D	364
<b>District Total</b>	<b>2,265</b>
Criminal Investigations Division	54
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	73
Metropolitan Police Academy	79
Narcotics and Special Investigations Division	116
Other <sup>13</sup>	220
School Safety Division	83
Special Operations Division	181
Strategic Change Division	16
Youth and Family Services Division	53
<b>Non-District Total</b>	<b>875</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 6/30/21)</b>	<b>3,140</b>

<sup>12</sup> Where the investigation determined that there are no facts to support the incident complained of actually occurred.

<sup>13</sup> Includes members in non-operational roles who may be deployed to operations.

**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, 2021, MPD received 310 FOIA requests. The outcomes of each request are noted in the table below.

<b>Disposition</b>	<b>#</b>
<b>Closed (reflect from prior year)</b>	<b>271</b>
Granted in full <sup>14</sup>	0
Granted in part <sup>15</sup>	126
Denied in full <sup>16</sup>	71
No responsive video found <sup>17</sup>	30
Duplicate request <sup>18</sup>	7
Referred to another agency <sup>19</sup>	1
Fee related <sup>20</sup>	1
Improper FOIA request <sup>21</sup>	8
Records not Reasonably Described	2
Withdrawn <sup>22</sup>	25
<b>Open (6/30/21)</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>

<sup>14</sup> There were no redactions made to the requested video footage.

<sup>15</sup> Some redactions were made to the requested video footage.

<sup>16</sup> The footage pertained to ongoing investigations, juvenile records, sexual assault, domestic violence or the video was from inside a personal residence.

<sup>17</sup> Videos were purged in accordance with the Department's retention schedule.

<sup>18</sup> The requestor made an identical request under a different FOIA reference number that is already in process.

<sup>19</sup> Sometimes requests are referred to other agencies because the footage pertains to access to information under their purview.

<sup>20</sup> The requestor did not respond to the Department's request to pay.

<sup>21</sup> The requestor did not provide all of the information needed to fulfill the request.

<sup>22</sup> 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.



Between, January 1 and June 30, 2021, the total cost of outsourcing BWC redactions associated with FOIA requests was \$134,472. MPD only calculates the cost of redacting the BWC footage by the vendor. Staff costs for processing and responding to FOIA requests for BWC footage are not tracked separately from the costs of processing and responding to FOIA requests for other MPD records, e.g. police reports, as all of the MPD FOIA Specialists assigned to process and respond to FOIA requests for BWC footage also process FOIA requests for other MPD records.

**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, 2021. Each video is required to be tagged with the most 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
<b>Event Type</b>	
Incident, No Arrest	447,763
All Other Misdemeanors	104,195
All Other Felonies	85,339
Contact / Stop	28,720
Traffic Stop	24,257
Murder / Manslaughter	13,319
Search or Arrest Warrant	7,542
First Amendment Assembly	6,420
Death Report / Suicide	2,842
All Other Sexual Offenses (not including 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Sexual Assault)	2,717
Warrantless Search	719
First and Second Degree Sexual Assault	658
Found Shell Casings	306
Forcible Entry	291
Crime Involving a Public Official Misdemeanor <sup>23</sup>	194
Consent Search	82
Crime Involving a Public Official Felony <sup>24</sup>	63
<b>Administrative Tracking</b>	
Vehicle Inspection	75,942
Video Testing	50,054
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	42,300

<sup>23</sup> This category does not indicate how the public official is involved, such as a witness, victim, or suspect.

<sup>24</sup> This category does not indicate how the public official is involved, such as a witness, victim, or suspect.

Category	# of Recordings
Court Liaison Division	21,290
Civil Litigation	16,233
Internal Investigations	9,708
Internal Affairs Division	1,858
Office of Police Complaints	1,359
Youth & Family Services Division	1,143
Freedom of Information Act	704
Redaction	359
Citizen Viewing	51
Pending/Supervisory Review	32
Training	20
Recruit Training	19