



A Report on MPD's Use of

Body-Worn Cameras

July 1 - December 31, 2018



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Chief of Police

WE ARE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC 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 December 2018, more than 3,100 BWCs were deployed to officers and sergeants in public contact positions in all police districts and other specialized units.

The BWC program is invaluable in building trust with the community by promoting transparency and accountability. Having this video available is important, as it shows the public how MPD officers conduct themselves in difficult circumstances. The videos have been 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 (July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018)

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

There were 255,088 hours of BWC recordings collected.

- 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))

Based on the number of help desk tickets submitted to the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), there were 55 reported failures of BWCs while officers were on shift.

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	#
Battery charging Issues	12
General hardware failure	41
Physical damage	2
Total	55

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 509 internal investigations opened for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions. The outcomes of the investigations are noted in the table below.

Outcomes	#
Exonerated	72
Sustained	409
Incident Summary Numbers Cancelled	26
Unfounded	2
Total	509

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 10,869 BWC video recordings used for internal investigations. 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 1,405 BWC video recordings used by the Office of Police Complaints (OPC) to investigate external complaints.

Pursuant to the *Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2015* (D.C. Law 21-125, D.C. Official Code § 5-1107), 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 January 9, 2019, there are 3,193 body-worn cameras assigned to the following units.

Unit	#
1D	334
2D	312
3D	319
4D	321
5D	329
6D	338
7D	354
District Total	2,307
Criminal Investigations Division	31
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	19
Metropolitan Police Academy	177
Narcotics and Special Investigations Division	155
Other ¹	143
School Safety Division	107
Special Operations Division	184
Strategic Change Division	22
Youth and Family Services Division	48
Non-District Total	886
DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 1/9/19)	3,193

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 July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, MPD received 132 BWC FOIA requests. The outcome of the requests are noted in the table below.

Disposition	#
Closed	110
Granted in full	0
Granted in part	40
Denied in full (pertained to an open investigation)	13
No responsive video found	15

¹ Includes but not limited to members in the Corporate Support Bureau and members in administrative roles.

Disposition	#
Duplicate request	6
Referred to other agency	2
Fee Related reason	4
Withdrawn	30
Open (12/31/18)	22
Total	132

Between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, the total costs of BWC redactions associated with FOIA requests was: \$191,752.

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 July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. 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
Event Type	
Incident, No Arrest	605,388
All Other Misdemeanors	132,549
Contact / Stop / Civil Enforcement	116,694
All Other Felonies	55,608
Search or Arrest Warrant	9,889
Murder / Manslaughter	2,493
Death Report / Suicide	1,287
All Other Sexual Offenses	1,234
First Amendment Assembly	845
First and Second Degree Sexual Assault	584
Warrantless Search	393
Consent Search	251
Forcible Entry	141
Found Shell Casings	133
Crime Involving a Public Official Misdemeanor	96
Crime Involving a Public Official Felony	39
Administrative Tracking	
Video Testing	101,984

Category	# of Recordings
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	48,358
Vehicle Inspection	46,518
Court Liaison Division	27,451
Internal Investigations	9,987
Other Miscellaneous	1,535
Office of Police Complaints	1,405
Internal Affairs Division	882
Freedom of Information Act	593
Youth & Family Services Division	383
Recruit Training	248
Citizen Viewing	224
Civil Litigation	206
Training	61
Pending/Supervisory Review	50
Redaction	8