



*A Report on MPD's Use of*

# Body-Worn Cameras

January 1 - June 30, 2018



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Chief of Police

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

To evaluate the body-worn camera program, The Lab @ DC conducted a comprehensive study<sup>1</sup> and released their findings in October of 2017. The data was collected from June 2015 through March 2017. With more than 2,220 patrol officers involved at the time, this represented one of the largest and most comprehensive body-worn camera studies to date. The study measured documented uses of force and civilian complaints as well as a variety of additional policing activities and judicial outcomes. The study found no statistically significant average effects on the measured outcomes. However, the study noted that the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement might provide other valuable information.

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 exactly our police officers are conducting 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Yokum, D., Ravishankar, A., Coppock, A. *Evaluating the Effects of Police Body-Worn Cameras: A Randomized Controlled Trial*. The Lab @ DC, (2017).  
[http://bwc.thelab.dc.gov/TheLabDC\\_MPD\\_BWC\\_Working\\_Paper\\_10.20.17.pdf](http://bwc.thelab.dc.gov/TheLabDC_MPD_BWC_Working_Paper_10.20.17.pdf)

## Data

### Data Responses (January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018)

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

There were 212,808 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 helpdesk tickets submitted to the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), there were 22 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	9
Physical damage	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</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 340 internal investigations opened for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions. The outcomes of the investigations are noted in the table below.

Outcomes	#
Exonerated	32
Sustained	297
Incident Summary Numbers Cancelled	7
Unfounded	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</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 6,092 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 1,833 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 § 5-1104), 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, 2018, there are 3,170 body-worn cameras assigned to the following units.

Unit	#
1D	355
2D	327
3D	336
4D	328
5D	338
6D	347
7D	372
<b>District Total</b>	<b>2,403</b>
Narcotics and Special Investigations Division	158
Metropolitan Police Academy	122
Special Operations Division	184
School Resource Officers	113
Criminal Investigations Division	18
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	19
Other <sup>2</sup>	82
Strategic Change Division	23
Youth and Family Services Division	48
<b>Non-District Total</b>	<b>767</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 6/30/18)</b>	<b>3,170</b>

<sup>2</sup> Includes but not limited to members in the Corporate Support Bureau and members in administrative roles.

**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? (D.C. Official Code §5-116.33(a)(7))**

As of June 30, 2018, MPD received 112 FOIA requests. The outcomes of each request are noted in the table below.

Disposition	#
<b>Closed</b>	<b>66</b>
Granted in full	0
Granted in part	28
Denied in full (pertained to an open investigation)	14
No responsive video found	7
Duplicate request	4
Referred to other agency	1
Withdrawn	12
<b>Open (6/30/2018)</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>

**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. 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	540,033
All Other Misdemeanors	126,318
Contact / Stop / Civil Enforcement	114,579
All Other Felonies	67,475
Search or Arrest Warrant	10,911
Death Report / Suicide	1,769
Murder / Manslaughter	1,765
All Other Sexual Offenses	1,191
First and Second Degree Sexual Assault	897
Consent Search	482

Category	# of Recordings
<b>Event Type</b>	
First Amendment Assembly	387
Warrantless Search	252
Found Shell Casings	154
Forcible Entry	151
Crime Involving a Public Official Misdemeanor	101
Crime Involving a Public Official Felony	46
<b>Administrative Tracking</b>	
Video Testing	78,123
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	54,678
Vehicle Inspection	29,964
Court Liaison Division	23,154
Internal Investigations	5,080
Office of Police Complaints	1,833
Internal Affairs Division	1,012
Recruit Training	853
Citizen Viewing	645
Freedom of Information Act	619
Other Miscellaneous	458
Civil Litigation	306
Youth & Family Services Division	260
Pending/Supervisory Review	255
Redaction	227
Training	66