



A Report on MPD's Use of

Body-Worn Cameras

July 1 - December 31, 2017



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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 January 2018, more than 3,200 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 study¹ 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.

¹ 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

Data

Data Responses (July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)

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

There were 204,289 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 15 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	4
General hardware failure	10
Physical damage	1
Total	15

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

Outcomes	#
Exonerated	15
Insufficient Facts	2
Sustained	175
Incident Summary Numbers Cancelled	7
Unfounded	1
No Disposition	19
Total	219

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 3,793 BWC recordings used for internal investigations. Some videos may also be used in investigations addressed under question 5.

Previous reports indicated only the number of investigations that used BWC videos. Here, the Department indicates the number of BWC video recordings used in investigations. This allows us to more clearly reflect the impact of BWCs on internal investigations.

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 541 BWC video recordings used for investigations by the Office of Police Complaints (OPC) of 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 January 2, 2018, 3,209 BWCs were assigned to the following units.

Unit	#
1D	368
2D	318
3D	344
4D	348
5D	353
6D	346
7D	360
District Total	2,437
Narcotics and Special Investigations Division	161
Metropolitan Police Academy	166
Special Operations Division	176
School Resource Officers	111
Evidence Control	13
Criminal Investigations Division	25
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	22

Unit	#
Other ²	45
Strategic Change Division	15
Youth and Family Services Division	38
Non-District Total	772
DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 1/2/2018)	3,209

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 January 2, 2018, MPD received 91 FOIA requests. The outcomes of each request are noted in the table below.

Disposition	#
Closed	61
Granted in full	1
Granted in part	30
Denied in full (pertained to an open investigation)	13
No responsive video found	7
Not reasonably described	1
Duplicate request	5
Referred to other agency	1
Withdrawn	3
Open (as of 1/2/2018)	30
Total	91

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
Event Type	
Incident, No Arrest	539,220

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

Category	# of Recordings
Event Type	
All Other Misdemeanors	115,468
Contact / Stop / Civil Enforcement	110,951
All Other Felonies	50,483
Search or Arrest Warrant	7,756
Murder / Manslaughter	1,496
All Other Sexual Offenses	1,199
Death Report / Suicide	1,063
Consent Search	878
First and Second Degree Sexual Assault	307
First Amendment Assembly	206
Warrantless Search	194
Crime Involving a Public Official	127
Forcible Entry	82
Administrative Tracking	
Video Testing	63,836
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	51,291
Vehicle Inspection	23,692
Internal Investigations	2,129
Internal Affairs	1,664
Other Miscellaneous	1,584
Citizen Viewing	666
Office of Police Complaints	541
Freedom of Information Act	446
Recruit Training	234
Civil Litigation	180
Redaction	170
Youth & Family Services Division	122
Training	98
Pending/Supervisory Review	37
Court Liaison Division	5