



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

December 12, 2024

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am pleased to submit to the Council of the District of Columbia the enclosed Body-Worn Camera Program Report, which was prepared by the Metropolitan Police Department ("MPD") pursuant to 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).

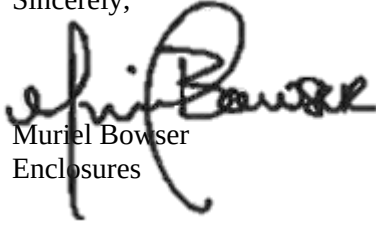
This report provides the following data for the time period July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023:

- The number of hours of body-worn camera recordings collected;
- The number of times body-worn cameras failed while officers were on shift and the reasons for the failures;
- The number of 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;
- The number of times body-worn camera recordings were used by MPD in internal affairs investigations;
- The number of times body-worn camera recordings were used by MPD to investigate complaints made by an individual or group;
- The number of body-worn cameras assigned to each police district and police unit for the reporting period;
- The number of Freedom of Information Act requests the Metropolitan Police Department received for body-worn camera recordings during the reporting period, the processing time between the request and response, and the cost and outcome of each request; and
- The number of recordings assigned to each body-worn camera recording category.

The body-worn camera ("BWC") program has been an invaluable asset for building trust with the community by promoting transparency and accountability. MPD is pleased to have been at the forefront of major city police departments in using BWCs. To that end, this report provides data on the 2,907 assigned body-worn cameras used by MPD.

My administration is available to discuss any questions you may have regarding this report. In order to facilitate a response to your questions, please contact Pamela A. Smith, Chief of Police, MPD, at pamela.smith1@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "M" and a cursive "Bowser".

Muriel Bowser

Enclosures



METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

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 MPD by improving police services, increasing accountability and transparency for individual interactions, and strengthening police-community relations. As of December 31, 2023, more than 2,900 sworn MPD members in public contact positions at the rank of captain and below had body-worn cameras.

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 with evidence to support or refute claims.

The MPD is pleased to have been at the forefront of major city police departments using BWCs. Our officers were 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 for the Period of July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

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

There were 234,687 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 why BWCs fail and the timing of the failures cannot always be determined. MPD policy requires that officers conduct a test recording with the BWC at the beginning of their shift to ensure that it is functioning properly.

The chart below represents the best interpretation of the reason for failure after MPD BWC coordinators assess the equipment for failure or damage. There were 158 BWC failures during the reporting period. This is a reduction of 162 from the last reporting period. To add further context, there were 863,573 total videos recorded during that time. This reduction was attributable to the expected replacement of cameras in 2023.

Reasons for Failure ¹	#
Battery charging issues	98
General hardware failure	56
Physical damage ²	4
Total	158

Each BWC processed for failure or damage does not necessarily imply an interaction or action was not recorded, as officers frequently identify failure and/or damage when testing their camera at the start of their shift or at other times during their shift when they are not interacting with the public. To reduce downtime due to BWC failures, unassigned BWCs are positioned at all major deployment locations so that officers can more quickly replace any malfunctioning device.

3. How many times were internal investigations opened for failure to turn on BWCs during interactions, and the results of those internal investigations, including any discipline imposed? (D.C. Official Code § 5-116.33(a)(3))

Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, MPD opened 352 investigations into officer failure to turn on BWCs during interactions. The outcomes of the investigations opened during this reporting period, as defined in General Order (GO) 120.23 (Serious Misconduct Investigations), 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 includes assessment of mitigating or aggravating factors and may be in combination with higher level misconduct.

Outcomes	Discipline	#
Exonerated³		34
Sustained⁶	<i>First Violation: No Action/No Discipline⁴</i>	105
	<i>Education-based development⁵</i>	28
	<i>Corrective Action⁷</i>	144
	<i>Job Performance Documentation⁸</i>	6
	<i>Member Separated⁹</i>	1

¹ For the purposes of this question, failure is defined as 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 Physical damage is hardware damage to the camera itself and includes, most commonly, the mounting clip or camera lens breaking.

³ Where a preponderance of the evidence shows that the alleged conduct did occur, but did not violate MPD policies, procedures, or training.

⁴ Investigation determined that it is a first violation with no aggravating circumstances or negative consequences to the public or MPD so no discipline is assessed. Education-based development, however, may be assessed.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Consists of unit-level discipline including a PD750 Dereliction Report, letter of prejudice, or official reprimand.

⁸ Department form (PD-62) that supervisors may use to record observations of subordinate's job-related behaviors.

⁹ The member left the Department prior to the imposition of discipline or prior to the investigation being completed.

Outcomes	Discipline	#
	<i>Suspended without Pay</i> ¹⁰	3
Sustained (cont'd)	<i>Termination</i> ¹¹	0
	<i>Pending Disciplinary Review</i> ¹²	3
Incident Summary # Cancelled ¹³		0
Open Investigation		26
Insufficient Facts ¹⁴		1
Unfounded ¹⁵		1
Grand Total		352

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 10,674 BWC video recordings used for internal investigations during this reporting period. Some videos may also have been 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))

The Office of Police Complaints (OPC) used 1,460 BWC videos during the reporting period to investigate external complaints. Pursuant to Section 5 of the Office of Citizen Complaint Review Establishment Act of 1998 (D.C. Law 12-208; D.C. Official Code § 5-1104), OPC is 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 December 31, 2023 there were 2,907 body-worn cameras assigned to the following units:

Unit	#
1D	275
2D	248
3D	258
4D	271
5D	283
6D	302
7D	307
District Total	1,944

¹⁰ The temporary removal of an employee from performing their work duties and from receiving pay.

¹¹ The member was fired for the conduct.

¹² Violations referred to the Disciplinary Review Division for penalty and still awaiting outcome.

¹³ Occurs when an internal investigation is initially started but discontinued. This happens when investigating officials inadvertently pull an incident summary number twice for the same violation.

¹⁴ Not enough evidence exists to sustain the allegation.

¹⁵ Where the investigation determined that there are no facts to support the incident complained of actually occurred.

Unit	#
Criminal Investigations Division	51
Internal Affairs Division	45
Joint Strategic & Tactical Analysis Command Center	61
Metropolitan Police Academy	159
Other ¹⁶	189
Real Time Crime Center Division	17
School Safety & Engagement Division	74
Special Operations Division	177
Strategic Change Division	21
Violent Crime Suppression Division	122
Youth and Family Services Division	47
Non-District Total	963
DEPARTMENT TOTAL (as of 12/31/23)	2,907

7. **How many Freedom of Information Act requests did MPD receive for body-worn camera 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, and the length of time between the initial request and the Department's final response?** (D.C. Official Code § 5-116.33(a)(7))

Disposition

Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, MPD received, closed, and billed 311 FOIA requests for BWC footage. The outcome of each request is noted in the table below. Additionally, 49 requests received during this time period were still open as of December 31, 2023.

Disposition	
Closed (From 7/1/23 – 12/31/23)	311
Granted in full ¹⁷	1
Granted in part ¹⁸	122
Denied in full ¹⁹	65
No responsive video found ²⁰	38
Duplicate request ²¹	6
Referred to another agency ²²	1
Fee related ²³	0
Improper FOIA request ²⁴	0

¹⁶ Includes members working overtime or part-time in an administrative capacity or members in non-operational roles who may be deployed to operations.

¹⁷ There were no redactions made to the requested video footage.

¹⁸ Some redactions were made to the requested video footage.

¹⁹ The footage pertained to ongoing investigations, juvenile records, sexual assault, domestic violence or the video was from inside a personal residence.

²⁰ Videos were purged in accordance with MPD's retention schedule.

²¹ The requestor made an identical request under a different FOIA reference number that is already in process.

²² Sometimes requests are referred to other agencies because the footage pertains to access to information under their purview.

²³ The requestor did not respond to the Department's request to pay.

²⁴ The requestor did not provide all of the information needed to fulfill the request.

Disposition	
Records not Reasonably Described	0
Withdrawn ²⁵	78
Total Closed	311
Open (Rec'd from 7/1/23 – 12/31/23)	49
Grand Total	360

Cost

The cost to outsource BWC redactions to fulfill FOIA requests from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, was \$33,960. This cost includes requests received prior to July 1, 2023, but fulfilled from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and only captures the redaction cost billed to MPD by the vendor. Staff costs for processing BWC footage is not tracked separately from the costs of processing FOIA requests for other MPD records (e.g., police reports). All MPD FOIA Specialists process FOIA requests for BWC footage and other MPD records.

Processing Time

The following table reflects the Department's processing times for the FOIA requests received during the reporting period. More than one-third of the requests were processed in five or fewer business days. The longest processing time was 138 days. FOIA processing times are most influenced by the length of the video and the complexity of the request.

Processing Days	Requests
5 or fewer	133
6-10	20
11-15	20
16-20	11
21-25	8
26-30	20
31-40	32
41-50	24
51-60	29
61-70	19
71-80	4
81-90	8
90+	32

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 reflected in the table below represents the number of times a BWC video has been categorized between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023. Each video is required to be tagged with the most serious offense but may include multiple offenses. The event type category represents MPD member interactions with the community.

Administrative tracking assists with identifying and categorizing specific tasks related to agency administration.

²⁵ The Department's FOIA office may have requested additional information from the requester; either the requester did not respond or the requester decided they are no longer interested in receiving the video and informed the FOIA office of such.

Category	# of Recordings
Event Type	
Incident, No Arrest	518,765
All Other Misdemeanors	195,967
All Other Felonies or Barring Notices	185,839
Contact / Stop	38,560
Murder / Manslaughter	35,448
Traffic Stop	27,594
Search or Arrest Warrant	11,070
Death Report / Suicide	2,858
All Other Sexual Offenses (not including 1 st or 2 nd Degree Sexual Assault)	7,259
Found Shell Casings	1,430
First Amendment Assembly, Civil Unrest, or Other Related Incident	384
Forcible Entry	691
Warrantless Search	932
First and Second-Degree Sexual Assault	539
Crime Involving a Public Official Misdemeanor ²⁶	135
Consent Search	90
Crime Involving a Public Official Felony ²⁷	66
Administrative Tracking	
Vehicle Inspection	113,277
Pending Warrant/Papered Case/Ongoing Criminal	97,940
Video Testing	44,552
Court Liaison Division	33,551
Internal Investigations	21,717
Youth & Family Services Only (Juvenile Victim)	5,414
Internal Affairs	3,679
Office of Police Complaints	2,018
Civil Litigation	1,953
Freedom of Information Act	2,078
Pending/Supervisory Review	98
Redaction	323
Citizen Viewing	27
Training	43
Recruit Training	8

²⁶ This category does not indicate how the public official is involved, such as a witness, victim, or suspect.

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