

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

Date: January 4, 2016
To: Col. D. Samuel Dotson
Commissioner of Police
From: Will Werner
Police Planner
Subject: BWC Week Three Survey Results

Copies:

Sir,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the results of the week one surveys regarding BWCs. At 7am Monday, January 4, 70.8% of Sergeants wearing issued BWCs had completed the survey. The numbers of surveys completed by Assignment Code are as follows:

Assignment	Number of Responses
301	2
302	2
303	2
304	3
305	3
306	2
340	2
341	1

Cameras are being used. To date, the Pilot has generated 251 videos totaling 41.19 hours (30.25 gigabytes). The pilot is averaging 11 videos per day totaling 1.87 hours (1.38 gigabytes).

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Will Werner

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

The below table is a list of questions with the average response from the officers that completed the survey. A rating of 3 is neutral. The higher the score the more officers DISAGREED with the statement. The LOWER the score the more they AGREED.

The rating scale is as follows:

1=Strongly Agree 2= Agree 3=Neutral 4=Disagree 5=Strongly Disagree

Question	Pre-Test Average	Week 3 Average	Change
I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.64	3.67	0.03
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.86	2.89	0.03
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.64	2.77	0.13
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.73	3.58	-0.15
BWC's make my job easier	3.57	3.74	0.17
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.86	2.98	0.12
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	2.83	-0.53
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	2.94	-0.42
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.07	3.21	0.14
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.15	3.21	0.06
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.27	3.23	-0.04
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.31	3.54	0.23
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.88	2.97	0.09
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.56	2.55	-0.01
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.56	1.95	0.39
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	2.25	2.23	-0.02
Officers will act more professionally	2.63	2.67	0.04

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.31	2.68	0.37
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.86	2.20	-0.66
BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.8	2.38	-0.42
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.27	2.93	-0.34
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.93	2.48	-0.45
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.93	1.91	-1.02
The SO is easy to understand	2.73	2.48	-0.25
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.93	3.18	0.25
The SO is too detailed	3.27	3.22	-0.05
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.38	4.21	-0.17
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.13	3.20	0.07
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	4	3.89	-0.11
Cameras improve officer training	2.67	2.86	0.19
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.56	3.17	-0.39
Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.56	3.55	-0.01
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.38	3.05	-0.33
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.81	3.20	-0.61
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.31	3.14	-0.17
The training I received on the technology	2.94	3.08	0.14
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.38	3.41	0.03

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

Responses for questions requiring a written response are listed below.

Please indicate what you believe to be the STRENGTHS of wearing a BWC.

- *Easy to operate once you figure out the sequence of how to turn it on and off.*
- *Strengths include: better collection of statements from certain victims. Possible improved community relations.*
- *Provides a record of contacts with citizens*
- *The BWC allows you to document scenes and the people there while keeping your hands free.*
- *Evidence collection is clearer*
- *Camera got wet in continuous rain - wiped off and seems to function well.*
- *Officers are starting to ask questions about the camera and becoming more comfortable with them. I have shown several officers how it works and the video, they are interested. Few negative comments.*
- *The strengths would be that overall it is a quality device and definitely captures solid recordings of events. The picture and audio quality is very good. It is easy to download and can enhance the strength of the officer's overall case.*
- *The cameras seem to work well when interviewing suspects. I believe they will prove useful when locking a victim of domestic violence in to a statement.*
- *I believe the body camera has the potential to record video footage of Officers' interactions with suspects during criminal investigations and arrests. This footage can then be used to corroborate the Officers' version of events during the warrant application process and during court proceedings.*
- *It can assist with nullifying a false complaint.*
- *Same as before, unfortunately I was on vacation.*
- *They are good for documenting the initial crime scene.*
- *I think a camera will help you recall specific actions you took at the scene and help you to recall why you took those actions.*
- *Officers will be more courteous*

Please indicate what you believe to be the WEAKNESSES of wearing a BWC.

- *I find myself checking if its on or not throughout my shift. I'm having difficulty with turning it on and off. Press twice to turn on and once and hold to turn off etc. I guess its user error. Wasn't sure if it was recording when I first pressed the button.*
- *Weaknesses include: Possible reluctance from certain victims/witnesses to make statements to officers.*
- *Provides a record of contacts with citizens.*
- *It draws a lot of attention from citizens to other police personnel, which can draw your attention away from other duties.*
- *Officers will second guess themselves during a critical incident*
- *No weakness in wearing.*
- *In a busy district it can become very time consuming. As sergeants, we have an overwhelming amount to do. Now this just adds to it. Often I have to stop what I am doing to dock the camera and download the video. I must also remember to document it in the report. It does not seem like a lot but when you add it to every thing else, it becomes a burden.*

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

- *The Evidence.com interface is not user friendly for a multitude of reasons. First, when logging in the user is presented with all the entries for the camera. Not only does the software automatically divide recordings into ~30 minute segments, the time is not stamped in Central Standard Time. These factors make the task of determining what footage is what difficult, especially when several scenes have been recorded before being docked. Additionally, after wading through all of the footage, two to three separate steps must be taken to classify the footage. Not efficient.*
- *The wire that connects the battery pack to the camera is cumbersome and can potentially interfere with Officers during the performance of their duties. I've also noticed that the wire sometimes disconnected from the battery pack, when I'm entering or exiting my police vehicle. Although this has not been an issue as of yet, I'm concerned that the wire will break and/or the camera will be dislodged during a physical altercation with a suspect.*
- *The flex camera does not flip its orientation, so the video will be upside down.*
- *Same as before, unfortunately I was on vacation.*
- *Too many wires and limits an Officer's discretion.*
- *I think you may tend to second guess your decisions or hesitate to use force which could have very deadly consequences.*
- *Officers will be hesitant to use force*

Please generally describe your experience wearing the BWC during the pilot period.

- *So far the camera seems to be working properly.*
- *In my experience, wearing the body cam with an exterior vest cover can be a challenge.*
- *The Flex camera is somewhat bulky and cumbersome. For me, There are no good places on your body to mount the Flex and get a good video image.*
- *The glasses mount is useless for people that wear prescription glasses or use reading glasses. The other mounting platforms are either cumbersome or require repeated adjustments to maintain a clear field of view.*
- *Lately, I have attempted to review videos on Evidence.com; however, I can not watch said videos. Also, I have noticed that the videos are broken up into 30 minuet segments when I have been on scenes form extended periods of time.*
- *I like the Flex style camera. There are many options on how to wear it*
- *Can get wet.*
- *I accidentally took the camera home over night. It was turned off and the batter lasted fine during the next shift.*
- *After wearing the camera for three weeks now, I definitely do not care for it. I t makes me feel very uncomfortable. I am constantly thinking of what I can and can not say. I feel it distracts me from what I should be focusing on, the potential threat in front of me. I have tried to overcome this but I simply can not.*
- *When interviewing suspects I really don't want them to know they're being recorded unless I tell them. The annoyingly loud beep not only alerts the suspect to the fact they are indeed being recorded, it servers as a constant reminder to the suspect throughout the course of the interview. This concern may represent a determent to an effective interrogation.*
- *I have gradually become more accustomed to wearing the body camera, but I still find it a bit cumbersome, and it's difficult to find extra room on my duty belt to mount the battery pack. Since we encourage our Patrol Officers to carry tazers on their duty belts, I'm concerned that some officers are going to experience difficulties finding the extra room on their persons to mount the camera and the battery pack.*

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

- *Uncomfortable to wear, to many wires, cumbersome, and creates a distraction. It has not been positive.*
- *Same as before, unfortunately I was on vacation.*
- *So far, I have not observed an impact in either direction.*
- *not a bad experience*

Please list any changes to the proposed policy/SO you would make.

- *Just easier to turn on and off. One push for on one push off.*
- *The SO does not address the fact that the Axon has an phone app that allows the operator to see and review images as they happen or after action immediately following a situation.*
- *Officers are concerned if they have to have it on all the time and if not, what happens if they are wearing it but forget to turn it on.*
- *We should not have to have the device on while at the station. Furthermore, we should have more discretion as to when to use it.*
- *I think Officer Discretion needs to be addressed in the Special Order if possible. Otherwise anyone with a bench warrant needs to be arrested every time and tickets need issued on every stop.*

Please list any other information you believe is relevant to this pilot program.

- *I feel the one unit body cam is the most practical. The flex may have too many wires and parts for the day to day use. Too many items to put on at the beginning of shift and keep track of when turning into the desk for the next shift.*
- *Outside of reiterating what I said above about being able to view my videos, I do not have any further information relevant to the pilot program.*
- *Give better categories for the video. I took video to a possible child abuse case. Put Category of OTHER because nothing else fits. Filled out a request to attach as evidence.*
- *In theory, this program seems like a potentially good idea. In reality, I feel it is not. It is simply too distracting to the officer when he or she has so much to deal with on patrol. I know the initial response to this is that the cameras are here to stay and you simply have to get use to them. But that does not solve the problem. I feel it is more of a hindrance than an asset.*
- *Thumbnails, perhaps at the one minute mark next to the video listing in Evidence.com, would be extraordinarily useful in aiding the user when he/she is attempting to locate a pertinent video clip. Furthermore, the existing drop-down categories are insufficient for our needs. At a minimum, the following categories should be added:*
 - *Building Search*
 - *Search Warrant*
 - *Pedestrian Check (28)*
 - *Holdover Interaction*
 - *Victim Interview*
 - *Suspect Interview/Interrogation*
 - *Scene Documentation*
- *I was assigned to Details all week long and did not find any opportunities to activate the camera.*