

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

**Date:** March 2, 2016

**To:** Col. D. Samuel Dotson  
Commissioner of Police

**From:** Will Werner  
Police Planner

**Subject:** BWC Group 3, Week 3 Survey Results

**Copies:** Assistant Chief, LTC Lawrence O'Toole  
BoE Commander, LTC Jerry Leyshock

---

Sir,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the results of the Group Three, Week Three Surveys regarding BWCs. At 7:00am Wednesday, March 2, 75% 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	3
303	2
304	2
305	3
306	2
340	2
341	2

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	Group 3, Week 3 Average	Group 3, Week 2 Average	Group 2, Week 4 Average	Group 1, Week 4 Average
I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.78	4.07	3.79	3.6
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.94	3.27	2.89	2.8
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.67	3.07	2.58	2.67
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.56	3.47	3.84	3.93
BWC's make my job easier	3.33	3.80	3.58	3.47
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	3.00	3.13	3.11	3.07
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.17	3.60	3.37	3.07
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.17	3.40	3.53	3.4
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.22	2.93	3.32	3.2
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.17	2.87	3.21	3.13
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.22	3.13	3.26	3
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.72	3.47	3.53	3.2
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.72	3.00	2.63	2.47
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.22	2.40	2.16	2.07
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.94	2.40	2.26	2.27
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	1.83	2.13	2.26	2.13
Officers will act more professionally	2.33	2.80	2.74	2.93
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.28	2.47	2.42	2.13

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.44	3.13	2.11	2.53
BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.61	2.87	2.53	2.93
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.11	3.27	3.26	3.67
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.00	2.47	2.05	2.53
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	1.83	2.27	2.00	2.2
The SO is easy to understand	2.83	2.87	2.63	2.67
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.83	3.07	2.84	2.87
The SO is too detailed	3.06	2.80	3.16	3.13
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.11	3.80	4.26	4.47
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	4.72	3.20	3.00	3.13
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	3.89	4.00	3.95	4.2
Cameras improve officer training	3.06	3.27	2.89	3.07
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.50	3.80	3.47	3.53
Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.28	3.87	3.58	3.73
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.22	3.53	3.42	3.53
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.78	3.93	3.95	3.93
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	2.94	3.47	3.21	3.73
The training I received on the technology was adequate	2.78	2.67	2.37	2.87
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.39	3.47	2.47	3

Responses for questions requiring a written response are listed below.

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

- *Increases professional conduct.*
- *better documentation of incident*
- *It can be activated quickly when questioning subjects.*
- *Accuracy of incident accounts*
- *recorded footage*
- *having actual video footage to refer back to*
- *Good record of events*
- *Good video for TV shows.*
- *helps to document incidents*
- *less complaints and more accurate reporting*

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

- *Protect officers against false complaints. Captures an incident for documentation.*
- *It would be useful when someone is known to make complaints and you have to interact with them. It would quickly resolve any complaints.*
- *Better than pictures to capture crime scene footage. Would be a great tool to use instead of a camera to collect evidence.*
- *When a good video is captured, it is enjoyable to watch.*
- *Easy to wear*
- *Great for recalling details of an incident but can be used in both positive and negative ways with regards to the wearer.*

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

- *Increases hesitation and second guessing of officer's decision making process.*
- *Officers are not at ease, second guess decisions.*
- *It has turned on when it wasn't specifically activated.*
- *officer discretion*
- *officers having or feeling like they have less discretion*
- *Difficult to adjust to record properly.*
- *May not accurately show incident.*
- *Wearing them*
- *Unable to discuss openly how to handle decisions*
- *hesitation to act*
- *Being able to wear the camera so that clothing does not interfere.*
- *The camera is clipped to my vest and does not seem to do a very good job recording when I am searching a vehicle. The angle seems to point straight while I may be reaching toward contraband on a floorboard and will not help for prosecution purposes and may actually be used to discredit the contraband by tricking the jury. Also the flashlight tends to wash out anything that you are looking at.*
- *Our administrative workload of preparing video file requests and viewing videos each and every day will skyrocket. Sergeants are already inundated with administrative tasks and this will only add a terrible burden to our workload.*
- *The ways to mount the camera are the biggest weakness especially in the winter and for women wearing them.*
- *It becomes the focus of attention*
- *Doesn't necessarily capture an entire incident and leads to plenty of Monday morning Quarterbacking.*

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

- *Increases officer awareness i.e. more attention to detail is given when BWC is present.*
- *The flex camera is uncomfortable*
- *It is not well received by many officers. I believe it is too intrusive to a person's privacy at times.*
- *Unit kept falling off, In the beginning, I had issues with recording. (Thought) I was recording when I wasn't. I've since then corrected that issue.*
- *the experience has been ok*
- *the overall experience has been average to say the least. I see the benefits but I also see the negatives.*
- *I am having a lot of trouble keeping the thing adjusted to record. It slips around*
- *No problems.*
- *I dealt with ignorant people and the chief's office took the camera away this week*
- *Dislike the cords and how the camera is worn*

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

- *My opportunities for usage differs than most due to the covert nature of the investigations my detectives conduct.*
- *I thought it was a useful tool*
- *I feel that the camera is going to be an effective tool to protect officers against citizens making false complaints.*
- *The Axon device is clipped on to my vest and I often forget I have it on.*
- *Having to remember to turn on and off the camera was a chore. The flex camera with all the magnets and wire was a chore to set up each day. Took my attention away from the situation at hand; we just have too much going on to have our attention taken away to make sure the camera was working and pointed in the right direction.*
- *Frustrated that I couldn't get better videos. The wire would pop out of the battery just when I thought I had a good video only to discover nothing was recorded. :-)*
- *Uneventful but removes officer discretion and the SO doesn't clearly state if discretion is allowed.*

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

- *Make them optional.*
- *Make it easier to read.*
- *Get rid of them*
- *More detail needs to be added if officers are required to wear these, especially for covert units.*
- *The video camera should be used by ETU for documenting crime scene evidence / investigations instead of our current policy of taking pictures with media cards.*
- *Address discretion.*

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

- *the flex cameras will be bad for the department. too many working parts on this thing*
- *Knee jerk reaction to appease the political climate*
- *The flex cameras are not a viable option for usage in the field.*
- *The camera mounted on the glasses seems to be a good way to get video for me but I need to wear prescription glasses when I'm driving so that is frustrating. Having to change back and forth.*
- *For this to work every officer should be issued their own body camera and the process of charging and downloading should be outlined. If all units are not going to wear them then no one should wear them. The Axon is easy to use downloading is simple.*

