

FAQ

What is a body worn camera?

A body worn camera is a wearable recording device, which collects audio and video evidence in the field from the vantage point of an officer.

Where is a body worn camera located on an officer?

An officer has several options for wearing the body worn camera for use in the field. He or she can wear a body worn camera on his or her uniform, hat/helmet, glasses, etc.

What body worn camera model are the HPD officers going to be wearing in the field?

The HPD conducted an extensive 12 month evaluation process, which included the field testing of a variety of body worn camera models such as the Taser AXON, VieVu, Wolfcom, and MPH. After this evaluation process, the Hayward Public Safety Technology Committee elected to deploy the Taser AXON Flex model as it provides the wearer with the widest range of options for wearing/mounting it in the field and it contains a wide angle, 75 degree lens. The wide range of options for wearing/mounting the Taser AXON Flex provides officers with tremendous flexibility in recording audio and video evidence. Additional information on the Taser AXON Flex can be found at: <http://www.taser.com/products/on-officer-video/axon-flex-on-officer-video>



FAQ

Does the Taser AXON Flex continuously record?

No. An officer can activate his or her Taser AXON Flex through its controller, which is also wearable and has a 12+ hour battery life.

Once evidence is recorded on a body worn camera, can it be modified or deleted?

No. This technology was designed so an officer will not have the ability to modify or delete any recording once it has been captured.

Once an HPD officer records evidence, how will that data be stored?

In conjunction with the purchase and deployment of body worn cameras, the HPD will utilize a digital evidence management system (DEMS) called "Evidence.com". "Evidence.com" is a web-based DEMS that will allow the HPD to securely store and track access to any digital evidence, including recordings from the Taser AXON Flex, audio files, digital photographs, etc. It does not require server space, it is completely secure/encrypted, and it digitally tracks evidence chain of custody. Additional information on "Evidence.com" can be found at: <http://www.evidence.com/>

What are the anticipated benefits in deploying body worn cameras?

The HPD anticipates the following benefits will result from the deployment of body worn cameras:

- It is anticipated that body worn cameras will be a highly useful tool for HPD personnel in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. They will allow officers to capture digital evidence, record victim/witness statements, document crime scenes, etc.
- It is anticipated body worn cameras will save officer time and increase efficiency in automated workflow processes. In contrast to other body worn camera models, it also allows an officer to quickly and automatically upload digital evidence into the DEMS by simply plugging the Taser AXON Flex into a computer's ETM dock at the end of his or her shift.
- It is anticipated body worn cameras will enhance the HPD's existing public trust by providing unbiased documentation of a contact or interaction (even in low light conditions).
- It is anticipated body worn cameras will allow for internal training reviews and employee evaluations as recordings/recorded contacts can allow officers to learn from the experiences of other officers. In turn, officer safety and the safety of the community will be enhanced.
- It is anticipated body worn cameras will reduce the HPD's liability exposure as the unbiased documentation of a contact can be used to investigate complaints or allegations of misconduct and to address allegations relative to civil lawsuits (especially in cases where the documentation of a contact is in direct contrast to allegations made against an HPD officer).
- It is anticipated body worn cameras will reduce the workload of identified HPD and City staff as well as the costs associated with researching, investigating, and defending false claims against

FAQ

the City. Field studies, including one that was conducted by the University of Cambridge and the Rialto Police Department, shown a significant reduction in overall complaints as well as a reduction in use of force incidents.

- It is anticipated body worn cameras will reinforce the HPD's commitment to employee accountability and providing outstanding customer service to our community.
- It is anticipated body worn cameras will encourage the improved behavior of individuals contacted during the course of an officer's shift.

Do body worn cameras have limitations?

Yes. A body worn camera cannot capture a 360 degree field of view and will only record when activated by an officer. Additionally, while designed to capture video evidence from the vantage point of an officer, it will not necessarily capture an officer's specific viewpoint or perspective. For example, if an officer is wearing his or her body worn camera on a uniform shirt/collar, it will not capture the officer's specific viewpoint or perspective if he or she is looking to the left or right.

Will the HPD have a policy that governs the use of body worn cameras?

Yes. Prior to actual deployment in the field, the HPD will introduce a comprehensive policy governing an officer's use of body worn cameras and the retention/disposition of subsequent digital evidence that is collected. Extensive research has been done in researching and developing this comprehensive policy, including the solicitation of input regarding best practices from the following stakeholders: the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the law firm Rains, Lucia, and Stern, PC (the law firm that represents the members of the Hayward Police Officer's Association).