

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

Date: January 26, 2016

To: Col. D. Samuel Dotson
Commissioner of Police

From: Will Werner
Police Planner

Subject: BWC Group Two, Week Two Survey Results

Copies:

Sir,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the results of the Group Two, Week Two Surveys regarding BWCs. At 1pm Tuesday, January 26, 50% 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	1
302	2
303	2
304	1
305	2
306	2
340	0
341	2

The below table shows activity for the pilot group from January 13, 2016 (the beginning of the second group) until January 26, 2016.

Total Uploads	
Number of Videos	171
Hours of Videos	21.17
GB of Videos	15.87

Active AXON Evidence	
Number of Active Videos	171
Hours of Active Videos	21.17
GB of Active Videos	15.87

Average Per Day	
Number of Videos Uploaded	12.21

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Hours of Video Uploaded 1.51

GB of Video Uploaded 1.13

The below table shows activity for each Sergeant from January 13, 2016 (the beginning of the second group) until January 26, 2016.

	Active Video Duration Hours	Total Evidence	Total Evidence MB
Sgt. 1	2.15	16	1621.14
Sgt. 2	1.32	15	1018.46
Sgt. 3	1.24	15	928.45
Sgt. 4	1.95	14	1522.29
Sgt. 5	1.94	13	1496.87
Sgt. 6	0.76	13	593.74
Sgt. 7	2.86	11	2171.04
Sgt. 8	0.83	10	636.93
Sgt. 9	0.48	9	366.77
Sgt. 10	0.33	7	260.23
Sgt. 11	0.76	6	557.40
Sgt. 12	1.16	5	920.26
Sgt. 13	0.38	5	274.28
Sgt. 14	0.48	5	371.76
Sgt. 15	0.55	4	434.74
Sgt. 16	1.16	4	907.10
Sgt. 17	0.39	4	276.72
Sgt. 18	0.25	3	197.36
Sgt. 19	0.81	3	638.61
Sgt. 20	0.53	3	399.67
Sgt. 21	0.46	3	363.31
Sgt. 22	0.32	2	248.72
Sgt. 23	0.06	1	48.08
Sgt. 24	0.00	0	0.00

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

Respectfully,

Will Werner

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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 2, Week 2 Average	Group 2, Week 1 Average	Group 1, Week 4 Average
I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.25	3.75	3.6
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.33	2.7	2.8
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.75	2.6	2.67
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.83	4	3.93
BWC's make my job easier	3.42	3.8	3.47
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.67	2.9	3.07
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	2.92	3.2	3.07
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.00	3.2	3.4
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.00	2.95	3.2
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.08	3	3.13
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.17	4.1	3
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.50	3.2	3.2
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.75	2.7	2.47
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.00	2.45	2.07
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	2.00	2.05	2.27
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	1.75	2.15	2.13
Officers will act more professionally	2.33	2.5	2.93
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	1.92	1.85	2.13
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.33	2.75	2.53
BWC Equipment is easy to use	3.00	2.85	2.93
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.75	3.9	3.67

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Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.08	2	2.53
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.33	2.2	2.2
The SO is easy to understand	2.42	2.8	2.67
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.83	2.95	2.87
The SO is too detailed	3.00	3.1	3.13
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.00	4.4	4.47
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.00	3.15	3.13
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	3.67	3.9	4.2
Cameras improve officer training	2.58	2.8	3.07
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.00	3.2	3.53
Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.00	3.5	3.73
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.25	3.3	3.53
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.42	3.85	3.93
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.17	3.35	3.73
The training I received on the technology was adequate	2.25	2.3	2.87
The training I received on the SO was adequate	2.58	3.1	3

Responses for questions requiring a written response are listed below.

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

- *it protects you against false allegations*
- *Evidence*
- *having video footage at your fingertips*
- *For younger and more inexperienced officers, it can be used as a training aid to catch bad habits or mistakes being made and correct them early on.*
- *It can be used for evidentiary use in cases where the camera captured an event and makes it easier for the officer to document.*
- *It documents the event.*
- *Citizens will not be able to lie about an officer's actions*
- *It has the potential to clear an officer of false complaints.*
- *Evidence preservation*
- *Good recorded footage*
- *It can be help protect Officers from citizen complaints.*
- *This week I didn't have any opportunities to record any videos.*

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

- *all bwc should be the pager model with no wires etc*
- *Officer discretion*

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- *Citizens as a rule do not like them. They walk away when they realize I have it on. I have to take it completely off before someone will talk to me, even when I tell them it is off. The only ones that really seem to want it are the ignorant activist types that we don't run into on a daily basis. There is also the feeling that they will be used as a disciplinary tool so it makes officers uncomfortable when I have it on and am around. They are doing nothing wrong, however, they do not feel comfortable around it. It could be that it is something new, but maybe not.*
- *It is like anything else new, it will take some time to find a way to get use to wearing.*
- *Officers will be hesitant in make decisions*
- *No discretion. You can afford new body cameras and storing all the memory which is millions of dollars a year but can't afford a pay raise for the 10th year in a roll for Officers*
- *It could cause the officer to hesitate, causing a safety concern. Limited field of view.*
- *searching for a suspect and the camera continues to beep*
- *awkwardness of wearing it, fear of loosing it and or damaging it.*
- *Sergeants are not usually the first on the scene therefore, the cameras do not record the incident completely.*
- *It will make officers more apprehensive of taking action or using force due to fear of getting in trouble.*

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

- *so far so good*
- *It is ok*
- *its been ok so far*
- *So far, I haven't been in a situation where I have had to turn it on. With bad weather and rec days, I haven't been able to use it a lot. I have tried several of the mounts and none have felt comfortable. The only way I have found comfortable to wear it is using one of the magnetic mounts through my shirt collar (without the neck band that goes around) and the camera itself. It seems to stay in place ok, but I do not like the wires going down my back. I have to keep my jacket on to keep it concealed. If not, I have to completely take my belt and shirt off then feed the wire, then put my shirt and belt back on then connect the camera. While trying to get officers in and out of roll call, it takes too long to switch everything. If it was a shared camera, it would take a lot of time to switch from one officer to another. We already take a lot of time to make relief and this would just add to it. Unless every officer had their own set up they could do at home, it would be cumbersome to swap at work.*
- *I am wearing the Flex model. It would not be my choice if I were issued a camera. There are too many hanging parts. It takes too long to put on and take off. It is hard to insure the footage is clear. I have issues with the sound captured by the video. I could hear the radio but not the people on scene.*
- *Not user friendly to bulky*
- *I'm avoided by other Officers while on scenes*
- *The camera is not a good tool for supervisors, as all the relative potential evidence has already occurred prior to their arrival.*
- *So for the experience has been ok*
- *fear of loosing it and or damaging it. not being able to be in the location to record when officers call out on example, pedestrian check, car stops etc.*
- *Everyone is always worried that it is recording all the time.*
- *They are easy to use but a bit cumbersome, especially while wearing my jacket.*

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

- *again allow officers to narrate to show intent vs somebody assuming*
- *Cameras can not be used in criminal or civil proceedings against an Officer*

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- *The SO should restrict the recording of on scene communication between Supervisors / Commanders and Officers.*

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

- *The flex camera system has been a terrible fit for me. While there are several mounting options they all seem to lack the ease of the self contained body camera.*
- *every officer should have one like the HP and the feds*
- *I think we should get a chance to wear each model. I am not so sure I would be so critical of the other model.*
- *Pilot program should have been conducted with Officers to obtain a true and accurate summary of wearing body cameras*
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- *The most convenient mounting option for me has been the shoulder mount on my heavy coat, however after reviewing the footage, I discovered half the field of view is blocked by my coat collar. Plus the wired connection seems a bit outdated.*

