

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

**Date:** December 14, 2015

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

**From:** Will Werner  
Police Planner

**Subject:** BWC Pre-Survey

**Copies:**

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Sir,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the results of the initial pre-test regarding BWCs. At the start of the day Monday, December 14, 2015, 66.6% of Sergeants wearing issued BWCs had completed the survey. The numbers of surveys completed by Assignment Code are as follows:

301	2
302	2
303	2
304	2
305	3
306	3
340	2

The responses to the questions were generally neutral. This is expected due to the fact that the officers have not worn the cameras yet. The questions requiring a written response provided some interesting feedback from officers. Their responses are included.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. As the project progresses, I expect we should have some good, timely data to help draw conclusions regarding the administration of the program and the acceptance of BWCs.

Respectfully,

Will Werner

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

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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	Average
I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.64
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.86
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.64
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.73
BWC's make my job easier	3.57
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.86
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.36
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.36
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.07
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.15
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.27
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.31
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.88
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.56
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.56
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	2.25
Officers will act more professionally	2.63
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.31
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.86
BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.80
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.27
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.93
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.93
The SO is easy to understand	2.73
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.93
The SO is too detailed	3.27
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.38
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.13
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	4.00
Cameras improve officer training	2.67
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.56

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Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.56
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.38
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.81
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.31
The training I received on the technology and SO was adequate	2.94
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.38

Responses for questions requiring a written response are listed below.

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

- *I believe that the vast majority of officers perform their job with a high level of integrity and professionalism. Cameras will, more often than not, clear allegations against officers and lessen the amount of complaints made by citizens.*
- *Evidence preservation, scene documentation, assisting an officer with recalling events.*
- *I do believe the body camera can protect officers involved in citizen complaints.*
- *Can provide immediate feedback/insights on use of force situations to understand why the officer acted as they did. Can disprove allegations of wrong doing. Can prove wrong doings of suspects.*
- *Evidence for prosecution.*
- *I believe the body camera will be able to capture events that are of evidentiary value and will provide the Circuit Attorney's Office with footage that corroborates the Officer's version of events.*
- *Evidence review/testimony/reports*
- *Detailed accounts of events will be extremely accurate. Officers can review footage prior to writing a report to ensure accuracy.*
- *I think the BWC improves accountability and transparency. I think it improves community relations.*

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

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- *I believe cameras scare officers away from performing self initiated activity, only because they are not familiar with them. I think it will only become a matter of time for officers to become comfortable wearing them.*
- *Officers will be hesitant to conduct their normal activities. Discretion will be limited.*
- *seatbelt issues*
- *Officers will be apprehensive toward getting involved in self initiated activity.*
- *Can be used against officers for using discretion (drinking in public, BWs, other City ordinance violations, etc.) Can be used against officers for mistakes. In other words, malicious mistakes vs. unintentional/non-malicious mistakes. I'm short. Wearing it mid-torso & up is not going to help see someone or something up close! Field of view will not be beneficial.*
- *Creating an expectation for video on every arrest and incident, that becomes controversial. When video is absent the media/citizens/jurors/circuit attorneys office will be more critical of an incident when there is no reason to justify not believing the Officers account.*
- *One of my initial concerns is that Officers will feel like they do not have the same level of discretion to issue warnings and will feel like they are required to issue a ticket, a summons, or make an arrest for every minor infraction of the law.*
- *Officers second guessing themselves. Worrying about camera angles reduces safety. Less self initiated activity due to fear of disciplinary action.*
- *I believe that morale across the entire department will be negatively affected. I believe that officers are going to be too afraid of making a mistake to effectively do their job.*
- *I believe that various privacy issues are inherent in BWC.*
- *Officer's Discretion.*
- *I am concerned about officer safety and reactions to the camera being in use. I am also concerned about the resulting stress the cameras may place on individual officers as it pertains to completing otherwise normal tasks.*

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

- *Things to consider: juveniles are we to record conversations w/officers when determining charges, asking questions, obtaining more information or clarifying? that could bugger things up a bit.*

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- *I think that advising people that they are being recorded will only provoke and incite them. People like to be the center of attention, ie "World Star Hip Hop" channel.*
- *I believe the current Speical Order is very thorough and detailed. I would not make any changes at this time.*
- *SO not discussed at all in any training whatsoever. Complete lack of training on the goals and expectations of the command staff.*
- *For me, as a supervisor, the order seems fine for normal patrol operations. As a supervisor in a specialized unit, should the cameras become mandated for officers, I would want to make some serious changes and/or additions to protect against certain types of investigations while being deployed.*

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

- Officer's actions are also based upon experience, training and intuition. The camera although able to pick up the audio/visual, does not have that ability. This needs to be considered when reviewing BWC recordings.
- I feel the "wait and see" comments made by the Chief during the presentation to be extremely dangerous way of looking at things as it regards to possible litigation involving members of this department. I feel we are opening ourselves up to frivolous lawsuits just to appease the loud majority who think they want these cameras in use.



# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

**Date:** December 21, 2015

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

**From:** Will Werner  
Police Planner

**Subject:** BWC Pre-Survey

**Copies:**

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Sir,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the results of the week one surveys regarding BWCs. At 7am Monday, December 21, 2015, 45.8% 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	0
302	2
303	1
304	3
305	2
306	1
340	1
341	1

While every participant is not filling out the survey, we are getting really good feedback from those that are. Given the “forced” responses from week one, I would like to keep the survey as is and allow those that are responding to continue to and those that are not to respond if they decide to. It is clear from the responses those that are told to complete it, because the leave no comments and rate everything statement as “neutral”. The questions requiring a written response, again, provided some interesting feedback from officers. Their responses are included.

It is clear from responses to the survey and contacts made last week that there needs to be a more substantial and hands on training for the officers wearing cameras. There is still a large amount of confusion with the devices, evidence.com, and the Department’s SO.

Cameras are being used. The first week of deployment generated 97 videos totaling 12.61 hours (9.14 gigabytes).

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	Pre-Test Average	Week 1 Average	Change
I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.64	3.85	0.21
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.86	2.69	-0.17
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.64	2.54	-0.10
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.73	3.46	-0.27
BWC's make my job easier	3.57	3.69	0.12
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.86	2.92	0.06
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	2.77	-0.59
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	2.85	-0.51
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.07	3.23	0.16
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.15	3.23	0.08
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.27	3.46	0.19
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.31	3.62	0.31
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.88	2.69	-0.19
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.56	2.38	-0.18
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.56	1.69	0.13
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	2.25	1.92	-0.33
Officers will act more professionally	2.63	2.54	-0.09
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.31	2.38	0.07
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.86	2.38	-0.48
BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.8	2.77	-0.03
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.27	3.46	0.19
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.93	2.62	-0.31
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.93	2.08	-0.85
The SO is easy to understand	2.73	2.85	0.12
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.93	3.38	0.45
The SO is too detailed	3.27	3.46	0.19
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.38	4.08	-0.30
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.13	2.77	-0.36
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	4	3.92	-0.08
Cameras improve officer training	2.67	2.69	0.02

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Cameras improve overall job performance	3.56	3.23	-0.33
Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.56	3.00	-0.56
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.38	3.46	0.08
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.81	3.69	-0.12
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.31	3.15	-0.16
The training I received on the technology and SO was adequate	2.94	2.92	-0.02
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.38	3.31	-0.07

Responses for questions requiring a written response are listed below.

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

- *The only strength about the flex is that you can wear it on personal glasses. It moves a bit, but not terribly. A bit cyborg, but it works.*
- *CYA*
- *BWCs should assist users with recalling events.*
- *Increase report accuracy and testimony of officers.*
- *Can de-escalate situations.*
- *It can be used to capture the demeanor of a suspect at a scene and any statements he/she is making.*
- *I believe the strengths are that officers will be more careful and cautious in their actions and safety tactics when a BWC is present.*
- *recording of events accurately*
- *decrease citizens false allegations on officers*
- *A camera depicts the actual, and true events that took place on a scene. Often, Officers are given several conflicting statements by parties during a call, and the camera will show the actual events and record the true statements. This is good; however it may hinder an Officer and their use of discretion.*
- *I believe the body camera has the potential to be a useful tool in corroborating Officers' statements at the Circuit Attorney's Office and later a trial.*
- *There are multiple uses for the body cameras based on the type of body camera.*
- *Makes citizens more aware of their actions.*
- *None*

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

- *Functionality while wearing the flex. I am smaller framed so most everything is close together. The piece that goes around the neck & magnets are cumbersome to me. Frankensteinish also! I changed it to the epilate and that was ok, but realized if I put my coat on, it won't work. Put it back on the collar w/o the neck piece. Better, less cumbersome, but also realized that w a coat on that it will get covered up. This will also apply to the people wearing the body cam. There is no place to put the device on outerwear. I would like to suggest Taser look into wireless connections between the camera and pack on the flex. That extra wire is a pain especially when trying to disconnect to use the facilities.*
- *Another weakness is when wearing the flex with the magnets. The magnets are weak and the camera can easily fall off during any type of scuffle or be grabbed off a person and used as a weapon to stab someone in the face.*
- *Misinterpretation*
- *Officers will feel there is no discretion with BWCs.*
- *Makes officers second guess themselves which greatly decreases officer safety in life and death situations wherein a delay in making decisions due to fear of reprisals could cost a life.*
- *Worrying about the camera angle and if its capturing the incident in another distraction that decreases officer safety.*
- *As a Sergeant, the camera creates a discomfort and distraction among the officers. The camera hinders my ability to perform my role as a supervisor when interacting with the officers. Some questions I would normally ask, to assess what needs to be addressed at a scene, I hesitate to ask, in order not to jeopardize the investigation or identify confidential information. I feel that the use of the camera can create patterns that will be used by defense attorneys to defend their clients. For example, if I were to conduct ten car stops for traffic and not write any tickets, than on the tenth stop, I find drugs, and I arrest the subject and write a probable cause ticket. I can see an attorney making an argument by using the nine previous stops. By videotaping any scene I arrive on, I am ultimately identifying all of the Under Cover Cars we use as well as the Detectives. The tactics we use may also be compromised as well.*
- *I feel that I am paying more attention to what the camera is or is not recording instead of concentrating on the events occurring during my stop or investigation. It feels unnatural and I am constantly thinking of what I may do or say is not approved by individuals who are not accustomed to dealing with potential violent suspects on the street.*
- *using safe tactics when operating the camera*
- *makes officers hesitant*
- *Officers tend to be more hesitant to use discretion with a camera on scene.*

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- *The camera can be a little cumbersome, due to the fact that there are two separate components that have to be connected with a wire.*
- *Officers have less discretion*
- *The light is distracting. It is in the way. The outer garment of the uniform does not allow an area to clip the camera onto.*

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

- *Still getting used to wearing it.*
- *not worn*
- *The camera seems easy to use.*
- *The battery life on standby flashed at 40% after only 4 hours on stand by. To be clear, the camera was not turned on at all. This is contrary to the 12 hours of battery life advertised by the company. After recharging and seeing a solid yellow on the previous shift, the Flex cam was a solid red on today's date- not blinking. Also, the 70 degree field of view is inadequate to capture relevant events when worn on your collar and blading your body.*
- *I find the device to be uncomfortable and creates a distrust among everyone I come in contact with who does not wish to be recorded. Even when the device is not recording.*
- *It definitely takes some time to get use to. I don't feel natural. I feel like I am acting and am apprehensive to do any thing outside of the box when it comes to interviewing or interrogating suspects.*
- *I have to remember to turn the camera on*
- *BWC was a little cumbersome*
- *The camera has not seemed to affect my job or my Officers job. I demand my Officers act professionally at all times and work with a high level of ethics.*
- *Because I had lasik surgery a few years ago, I don't like wearing the FLEX glasses/camera at night. I think the Body Flex would be good for everyday use and the Flex would be good for Tactical use.*
- *It is difficult to remove the camera from the holder. The holders are awkward to attach to your uniform.*
- *The blinking light bothered me (night watch). The sound cut out during the video. The wind is very loud in the background. My placement of the camera cut off the heads of people in the video.*

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

- *None at this time. Perhaps allow discretion to deactivate the camera when speaking with attorneys or writing down sensitive information, such as police officer's phone numbers.*
- *The use of the Camera should be voluntary and at the discretion of the officer.*
- *use the video as the narrative for a report*
- *Where in a domestic incident, when you only have the victim, can you indicate that video was taken and seized as evidence.*

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

- *BWC have pro's and con's*
- *The mounting system for the body-mounted camera doesn't allow for the device to be mounted on a coat or jacket. This is an issue because it's cold outside.*
- *Also, the flex camera cord is too long and gets tangled among the other numerous items on my duty belt.*
- *When worn on the collar, both magnets interfere with using the phone, both the land line as well as the cell phone. This decreases productivity as you can not type or write easily when on the phone.*
- *There needs to be more hands on training before the department places a camera on an officer. None of the downloading or identifying the videos was explained or demonstrated.*
- *The general consensus from the public I have received is not all positive. I have found several people on calls and in passing that have asked about the camera. Several citizens on calls have told me they do not like being filmed.*
- *There should be more classifications of incidents.*
- *I don't like wearing the camera.*

**From:** Werner, William C.  
**Sent:** Monday, December 28, 2015 07:58  
**To:** Dotson, Doyle  
**Cc:** McAteer, Michael W; Carnaghi, John M; Obermark, Edward D  
**Subject:** Week Two BWC Survey Results

Sir,

The purpose of this email is to update you on the results of the week two surveys regarding BWCs. At 7am Monday, December 28, 2015, 75% of Sergeants wearing issued BWCs had completed the survey. The numbers of surveys completed by Assignment Code are as follows:

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

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

Average responses for week two:

Question	Pre	Average
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I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.64	3.84
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.86	2.68
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.64	2.47
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.73	3.95
BWC's make my job easier	3.57	3.79
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.86	2.89
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	3.11
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	3.21
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.07	3.16
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.15	4.84
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.27	3.32
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.31	3.47
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.88	2.42
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.56	2.05
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.56	1.68
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	2.25	2.00
Officers will act more professionally	2.63	2.79
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.31	2.11
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.86	2.26
BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.8	2.47
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.27	3.58
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.93	2.37
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.93	2.05
The SO is easy to understand	2.73	2.53
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.93	2.89
The SO is too detailed	3.27	3.26
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.38	4.42
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.13	3.11
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	4	4.05

Cameras improve officer training	2.67	2.63
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.56	3.32
Cameras tend to increase office safety	3.56	3.37
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.38	3.47
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.81	3.79
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.31	3.42
The training I received on the technology was adequate	2.94	2.95
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.38	3.11

Written responses include:

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

- *My experience with the BWC has been limited, therefore, I do not have a comment at this point.*
- *The BWC is one more means of documenting an incident.*
- *The BWC allowed me to record a victim's injuries and statement in a serious felony case. The BWC may have painted a more complete picture of the scene, the victim, and his statement, than a still camera could have in this particular instance.*
- *More detailed account of events by officers.*
- *The strengths, as I have experienced, are that while at scenes we can capture most individuals in the crowds (for identification later, if needed) and document scenes with the camera without having to hold anything in our hands.*
- *The strength of this program lies in the fact that erroneous / false citizen complaints can be stopped at the onset.*
- *They do depict an accurate assessment of a situation. I have found citizens do not necessarily like being on camera and they seem to think first before making their own statements.*
- *The strengths of wearing the camera would be having documented video evidence to support the officer's account of events when disputed by other persons.*
- *I believe that body cameras have the potential to record video of arrests, which Officers will be able to use later to corroborate their version of events.*
- *The strength would be if someone were to make a false complaint against you, it may or may not help you.*
- *It is easier to recall the specific details of events that you were a part of.*
- *Evidentiary values could be good but it is too soon to tell. In addition, the CAO has become increasingly more difficult to deal with in regards to issuing cases.*

*I feel the cameras could potentially be useful, but until the program goes longer and there is more evidence to verify that the pros outweigh the cons, I will have to remain neutral.*

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

- *My experience with the BWC has been limited, therefore, I do not have a comment at this point.*
- *The BWC, when required for supervisors, likely creates hesitancy on the part of officers to solicit supervisory advice.*

*Additionally, operating the BWC redirects my attention when my focus should be on operating in a safe manner during high-risk situations.*

- *It allows civilians too much insight into our tactical operations. It somewhat eliminates the amount of police discretion that we would have if not being recorded.*
- *Much like the process for seizing video from an in-car camera, the method for saving BWC footage is cumbersome and time consuming. Additionally, the BWC emits two loud beeps every so often while the device is recording. While I welcome the friendly reminder the device is recording, the audio alert can represent a serious officer safety issue. For example, when conducting a building search or a similar task, broadcasting the location of an officer is a serious safety concern.*
- *Negative effects on morale, officers will hesitate to make decisions believing that they will be questioned on everything they do.*
- *The BWC is in the way on my uniform. There needs to be a way to clip the BWC on the outer garments.*
- *The main weakness, as I have experienced, is that this piece of equipment is not well received by other members of this department and has created a sense of paranoia.*
- *It creates a distraction to the officer. Instead of thinking about the task at hand (safety etc.), they are more focused on the camera. That distraction creates a substantial risk of officer safety.*
- *I have a fear that cameras will cause hesitation for an officer when the use of force is necessary. I would hate to see it become an officer safety issue.*
- *Wearing the body camera makes me feel very self conscience of what I am doing and what I can say. It does not feel natural. I don't feel as if I can be myself that I will always be judged on every little thing I do or say. I feel it is a hindrance.*
- *Officers already do not have a lot of extra room on their duty belts and on their persons to store extra equipment. This particular model has two components (the battery pack and the camera), which must be connected with the use of a wire. This makes the wearing of the camera somewhat cumbersome and the wire connecting the two components will sometimes get in the Officer's way.*
- *Having the camera strapped to my head with the wire is a distraction. I often find myself adjusting the camera wire as I move so it does not tug and change the direction of the camera. I also do not like that I have to take my eyes off of the target of my investigation as I approach so that I can activate the camera. Also the device around my head gives me a headache at times.*
- *The flex system specifically is too complex. On several occasions the cable has disconnected from the unit by simply sitting in my vehicle or exiting. It also has police officers scared to make decisions as freely as they would have before and as a result I feel that Officer safety is compromised.*
- *As shown with the initial usage of vehicle mounted cameras, there have been numerous instances where officers failed to act appropriately to save their lives in instances of lethal force. Based on that, coupled with the more increasingly biased charging of police officers by courts to appease a small percentage of people, the cons seriously outweigh the pros for me.*

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

- *The BWC only captures a small fraction of events occurring during the time it is recording. Additionally, in the capacity within which I am using it (search warrants), it is difficult to physically mount it in a place where it doesn't interfere with the necessary equipment I am carrying: rifle, magazine carrier, radio, etc.*
- *I ran into an issue with the basic recording operations which caused me to have to contact the IT personnel for a one on one briefing.*
- *Another concern regarding the chest-worn camera is that everything I write in my notebook is recorded, including sensitive information such as other officer's telephone numbers. This situation should be addressed in subsequent training and steps should be taken and taught on how to prevent this from occurring.*

- *It is extremely difficult to get the BWC out of the carrying clip. I attempted to stop recording and the device did not respond. I had to power it off to end a recording.*
- *Thus far, my experience with the BWC has been ok.*
- *I was issued the Axon Body device. Fortunately it was warm enough to not have to wear a coat. Otherwise I do not know how or where I would wear the device.*
- *I think the FLEX is too bulky. I would prefer to wear the Body Flex regularly and save the Flex for tactical operations*
- *It is difficult to be ostracized by the very people you trust your life with on a daily basis. Officers feel uncomfortable talking to you while it is recording.*
- *I have found they are easy to operate and wear.*
- *Problematic. The cord connecting the camera to battery pack kept pulling the aim of the camera in other directions*
- *It is definitely an adjustment. You hear commanders say, "The cameras are here to stay so you better get use to them". Well, in my experience so far that is easier said then done. I believe commanders need to experience wearing the camera while performing street patrol and supervision because I believe it definitely effects the officer's street presence.*
- *I have not experienced any major problems or complications with the camera, during the pilot program, thus far*
- *From reviewing the videos, I find it interesting since I wear the (FLEX) model how often I take my focus off the subject I am investigating and constantly scan the area for other threats. I am accustomed to doing this and am able to listen and use my peripheral vision to still maintain control and observation of the subject. I often look toward the ground (which appears funny on the video) but I do this more to create a relaxed interaction while cuing into the subjects body language and voice changes.*
- *The Flex camera was broken and I had several days off so I was unable to utilize the camera this week.*
- *The camera does not stay pointed in the correct direction and the cable easily disengages by making minimal movements. I believe that the system itself is a strong point in that it*
- *So far, I have only had the camera during one instance and it appears to have worked. There was no issue with turning it on or recording the series of events. I saw nothing that indicates that wearing the camera increased officer safety or citizen compliance.*

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

- *For the purpose of the pilot program, I would suggest that the SO should have been written for the Sgt.'s not PO's.*
- *I would remove the requirement for SWAT supervisors to carry BWCs during the execution of search warrants.*

*A supervisor from the investigating unit could easily document the search warrant execution from outside the target building, and this would allow SWAT supervisors to focus on*

- *Specifically prohibiting the recording of officer/attorney communications would be prudent.*
- *I would not require Sergeants to wear this*
- *There needs to be more leeway / discretion when recording. Example: On a scene where there are multiple locations. It is silly to keep the device on when moving from one location to another, but by SO, the camera must remain on once started. Impractical. Example #2: On a scene where officers have completed their initial investigation and are waiting for a specialized unit. At that point, there is no reason to have it on unless the scene or investigation is still active.*
- *I think the best way to implement this program would be to allow the officer to use the camera when they feel it may be beneficial and use it on a voluntary basis. After it saves a few police officers or captures some really helpful video the officers perceptions may change.*

- *I would definitely make changes should the camera be forced on police officers assigned to the Special Operations Unit. I would like to see more protections in regards to undercover activities and intelligence based policing activities.*

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

- *More training needs to be given on the use of the cameras. We were given a brief "how to" class then were instructed that the use would begin within a week later which is definitely NOT enough time to work out what ever user errors which may occur.*
- *It will be a problem for Officers to upload the information on line for every recording at the end of their shift.*
- *I noticed that while making phone calls on my personal cell for work purposes, that the camera may be picking up numbers on my cell etc. I find that to be disturbing and do not wish my personal numbers on a recording. Furthermore, if I receive a personal call while the device is recording, it will record even the briefest moments of that call and possibly pick up the caller ID. I do not like that.*
- *The Flex may not be the best choice for the officers due to the numerous plastic pieces that I feel over the course of time will break or be lost. I think a wireless camera would also be helpful.*
- *Currently, it serves no purpose for Sergeants to be wearing these cameras. The usual response times for sergeants to any scene is delayed and I feel there can't possibly be any benefits from them.*

# 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:**

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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 it's 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 it's 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 everything else, it becomes a burden.*

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## 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 minute segments when I have been on scenes for 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 battery lasted fine during the next shift.*
- *After wearing the camera for three weeks now, I definitely do not care for it. It 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 serves as a constant reminder to the suspect throughout the course of the interview. This concern may represent a deterrent 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.*

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## 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.*

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

**Date:** January 11, 2016

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

**From:** Will Werner  
Police Planner

**Subject:** BWC Week Four Survey Results

**Copies:**

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Sir,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the results of the week four surveys regarding BWCs. At 7am Monday, January 11, 62.5% 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	3
304	1
305	3
306	0
340	2
341	1

During the first month of the Pilot, the Department generated 300 videos totaling 47.31 hours (34.84 GB). That is an average of 10.34 videos per day totaling 1.63 hours (1.20 GB). Looking closer at the user data there are some concerns. Specifically, there are only a handful of Sergeants that regularly used the cameras. See user data below.

	Hours	Total Videos	Total Evidence MB
Sgt 1	7.91	33	6054.77
Sgt 2	5.63	21	3924.22
Sgt 3	5.01	25	3886.45
Sgt 4	5.05	14	3829.80
Sgt 5	4.56	27	3572.02
Sgt 6	3.39	22	2393.39
Sgt 7	2.38	18	1806.71
Sgt 8	2.17	32	1708.63
Sgt 9	2.18	9	1682.05
Sgt 10	1.04	6	800.89

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

Sgt 11	1.18	6	799.24
Sgt 12	1.00	9	792.85
Sgt 13	0.86	7	647.77
Sgt 14	0.79	6	612.97
Sgt 15	0.73	4	572.72
Sgt 16	0.73	3	527.37
Sgt 17	0.69	22	500.40
Sgt 18	0.51	11	382.06
Sgt 19	0.38	2	293.83
Sgt 20	0.27	6	206.41
Sgt 21	0.26	3	202.90
Sgt 22	0.26	6	200.69
Sgt 23	0.21	2	164.87
Sgt 24	0.15	6	111.49

Half of the Sergeants in the Pilot generated less than an hour of video each for the entire four weeks. It is possible that some Sergeants did not have events that warranted recording or were on vacation. In reviewing the videos, it would appear that one Sergeant simply turned the camera on once everyday for about 30 seconds to 1 minute and never captured anything beyond his desk. Given that most of the videos covering actual incidents last from 20 minutes to an hour and have multiple officers walking around on scene, it would stand to reason that, with a full deployment on officers, incidents will generate multiple hours of video. As it stands now, it will be very difficult to estimate our data needs from the data collected thus far.

The survey data fluctuate significantly during the four weeks. As you can see below, there was not much change in responses from the pre-test to the final survey.

Finally regarding the written responses, the Pilot has generated some very good feedback. Specifically, it is clear that the training will need to be more comprehensive, which we have already met and spoken with the folks from TASER to address the need in the next training. Sergeants have also provided useful information on the cameras themselves. They have illustrated that there are positive and drawbacks to both models. This information will be invaluable during the RFP process.

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 4
I spend less time completing paperwork with a BWC	3.64	3.60
My accounts of incidents are more accurate with a BWC	2.86	2.80
Evidence quality is better with a BWC	2.64	2.67
I would voluntarily wear a BWC even if it was not mandatory	3.73	3.93
BWC's make my job easier	3.57	3.47
BWC's make it easier to work with the CAO during warrant application	2.86	3.07
Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	3.07
Citizens are more respectful when they know I wear a BWC	3.36	3.40
Suspects resist arrest MORE when they know I wear a BWC	3.07	3.20
Suspects are generally MORE AGGRESSIVE when they know I wear a BWC	3.15	3.13
BWC's hurt 'police-community' relations	3.27	3.00
Cameras will increase citizen complaints against officers	3.31	3.20
Officers will be less likely to give warnings while wearing a BWC	2.88	2.47
Officers will have fewer contacts with citizens	2.56	2.07
Officers will feel like they have less discretion	1.56	2.27
Officers will be more cautious in making decisions	2.25	2.13
Officers will act more professionally	2.63	2.93
BWC's affect an officer's decision to use force	2.31	2.13
It is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific event	2.86	2.53

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## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

BWC Equipment is easy to use	2.8	2.93
BWC Equipment is comfortable to wear	3.27	3.67
Battery life of the camera is adequate	2.93	2.53
Video is easy to download data at the end of shift	2.93	2.20
The SO is easy to understand	2.73	2.67
The SO is too restrictive; officers are required to record too much	2.93	2.87
The SO is too detailed	3.27	3.13
Body cameras are well received by coworkers	4.38	4.47
Police benefit more from body cameras than citizens	3.13	3.13
Wearing a BWC improves officers' job satisfaction	4	4.20
Cameras improve officer training	2.67	3.07
Cameras improve overall job performance	3.56	3.53
Cameras tend to increase officer safety	3.56	3.73
Cameras should be expanded to other police departments	3.38	3.53
Cameras should be worn by all sworn officers in all Police Departments	3.81	3.93
Advantages of body cameras outweigh the disadvantages	3.31	3.73
The training I received on the technology was adequate	2.94	2.87
The training I received on the SO was adequate	3.38	3.00

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 use and download.*
- *citizen complaints*
- *BWC's are great for quick suspect interviews on the street; they don't seem to know what they are. A BWC's also negate having to photograph scenes we would otherwise have to take photos.*
- *I do not see the benefit*
- *I believe that since the BWC can be used to record and document incidents, wherein Officers are interacting with or arresting suspects, it has the potential of being beneficial to those Officers, by corroborating their statements and versions of events.*
- *Ability to record spontaneous statements, general chatter, faces and behavior of witnesses, victims and suspects/offenders and of potential suspects/offenders.*
- *Increased detail in report writing as well as courtroom testimony.*
- *Recently my Detectives stopped a vehicle and spoke with the driver for several minutes. While speaking to him they could smell an odor of marijuana and noticed he appeared to be extremely nervous. When they ordered him to exit the vehicle he placed the vehicle in drive and accelerated away. The camera would*

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

*have been beneficial with proving the identity of the driver. However, they would need the freedom to be able to stop recording so that while following the vehicle we would not expose our tactics.*

- *As I have stated before, I feel the strength of the BWC is the ability to document incidents and people at said incidents while keeping your hands free.*
- *Documentation of incidents. Citizens may react in a positive way when they know they are being recorded. Officers may act more professionally.*
- *Records incidents*
- *Evidence collection is better*

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

- *Maybe have embossed wording 'Recording' and 'Stand-by' next to separate indicator lights.*
- *Discretion*
- *Just to reiterate my previous comments, I believe witnesses will be reluctant to speak to an officer on a homicide scene. There's been several times in my career bystanders have provided me or of my colleagues with information concerning the incident on an anonymous basis. These folks will be reluctant to do the same if they know BWC's are in play.*
- *We should be able to view other's camera footage. For example, when SWAT executes a search warrant for my subordinates, I should be able to view the footage.*
- *The camera will make officers second guess themselves when force is needed and justified. I see it as a major officer safety issue.*
- *The BWC is somewhat cumbersome, due to the fact that the camera must be connected to the battery pack via a chord. The chord then has the potential of getting in the way or obstructing the Officer, while he/she is performing his/her duties. Furthermore, many Officers experience difficulties fitting all of their equipment, which includes the Department issued taser, on their duty belts and/or their persons. Some Officers may find it very difficult to be able to comfortably fit a camera and a battery pack on their persons. I also have concerns about the equipment becoming easily displaced, in the event of an Officer becoming involved in a physical altercation with a suspect who is resisting arrest.*
- *It picks up extraneous conversations by Officers of all ranks that are not pertinent to the investigation.*
- *Uncomfortable, hard to remember to start recording under pressure and should be the last thing you are thinking about in a life and death situation.*
- *Hard to wear the Flex Camera and use the restroom dictating you remove part of the equipment = less time on the street.*
- *I have been wearing the FLEX Model during the pilot program and have developed a hatred for it. I have been positioning the base in the front pouch of my exterior vest, the size of the device prevents me from storing my phone in this pouch. As a supervisor, I am constantly in contact with my detectives and trying to dig through my pockets to get my phone out is annoying. I am constantly getting tangled up in the wire while getting in and out of the car, or just moving my head from side to side. The camera often gets pulled which causes the focus of the camera to change. While searching vehicles the camera has fallen off the head piece numerous times and has secured itself to the side of the vehicle with the magnet. If I was not paying attention I would have likely lost the camera.*
- *As the weather has changed and gotten much colder, I have realized that when wearing a coat I can not zip up my coat more than half way without covering the BWC (AXON). Unless I do not know how to wear both, there should be a way to mount the AXON BWC to the outer most garment without obstructing the camera's view.*
- *Lessens officer discretion. Attention to the camera protocols may take the officer's focus off of safety issues.*
- *remembering to activate the BWC*

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## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

- *Can not record while camera is buffering which causes your attention to be misdirected to the BWC while you should be paying attention to your safety and your citizens. Hard to get BWC out of clip on case.*
- *Officers will second guess themselves in critical incidents*

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

- *Just one more thing to try and remember to deploy.*
- *operation was a bit confusing*
- *The equipment of the flex program is not easy to wear and the cords are too long. They get wrapped up in other equipment.*
- *I believe the camera has the capability to assist Officers by documenting their actions with the public; however, I do have concerns about Officers being able to comfortably fit the extra equipment on their persons, without interference from a chord or wire.*
- *It has not been positive.*
- *As it was broken most of the time, I did not have a good experience with the Flex camera. Also, while I looked for opportunities to use the camera, I found that I would be leaving an incident and then think about turning the camera on.*
- *I started this program with an open mind and looked for ways this camera would be advantageous to what we do. I figured, if nothing else, just recording the demeanor and statements of the bad guy would be helpful. This week, my detectives stopped a vehicle, as I walked up, the driver, who had been removed from the vehicle, looked in my direction and said, "I know you, where have you been?" I recognized the driver as a gang member I had developed a rapport with years ago. We started talking and he told me that he had just put new tires on his vehicle because the police spiked them. I asked him, what happened, and he explained his buddy, was wanted for a Homicide Questioning, and had been arrested. I thought this would be a great opportunity to get him talking about what he knew about the homicide and have it recorded. I spoke with him for roughly ten minutes and he really did not say anything of value and spoke in general terms. When we finished up I went to turn the camera off and It did not make a noise to indicate it had stopped recording. Upon reviewing the video, it had shut off halfway into the interview due to the wire being slightly disconnected which occurred with normal body movements. My recommendation of the FLEX is that it is not a good fit for what we do. Any foot pursuit or sudden movements will cause a disconnect and the video footage will be lost. This will likely be used by the defense attorney to show that the officer must have turned the camera off during the foot pursuit because he beat his client or somehow violated his rights. I can only imagine the riots we would have if the officer was involved in a shooting and the camera had disconnected while engaging the bad guy. Another time this week, the camera had disconnected partially while seated in the vehicle. When we exited the vehicle to engage several subjects I had pressed the start button. I was several minutes into the stop before I realized it was not recording due to the disconnect.*
- *During the pilot period, I was assigned the AXON BWC and without actually wearing the FLEX BWC, just simply by comparing the two, I feel the AXON BWC is less likely to cause an officer safety issue. The FLEX has cord that locks into a separate battery pack and can be one more thing for a suspect to grab ahold of. Where as the AXON is one piece and mounts onto the shirt.*
- *The glasses are useless for officers that wear prescription glasses or need reading glasses. The other platforms are uncomfortable or hard to use.*
- *it was a positive experience, other officers do not like or trust the BWC*
- *I strongly dislike wearing this. The light on the BWC is distracting at night.*
- *Used the camera to document car stops and pedestrian checks*

# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## Intra-Department Report and Correspondence Sheet

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

- Again, conversations regarding operations and with attorneys should be specifically addressed in the special order.
- Less restrictive - allow for more discretion.
- I think a blanket statement in regard to discretion needs to be addressed.
- I do not have any changes to the proposed Special Order at this time.
- The limit on recording demonstrations.

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

- more training and prep time is definitely needed prior to implementation of this program
- Lastly, there needs to be a jacket mount for the AXON. I resorted to using the large clip and just attaching the camera to my empty badge holder on my issued coat, resulting in the image being canted. There really has to be a better solution than this. One more thing: the Department really screwed the pooch when the in-car cameras were rolled out. There was no training in terms of giving officers the tools to use the in-car cameras as an effective law enforcement strategy. If a Department-wide BWC program is ever implemented, I think it's vitally important to provide a comprehensive class on effective methods to utilize the cameras. Having such a class will not only give our officers what they need to use these cameras, but this course of instruction will have value in terms of getting officers to buy in to these devices.
- The Flex is impractical. It is easy to knock off. The connectors (magnets, neck piece, eyewear) are not friendly. Not functional for outerwear. The eye wear connector does not work on all styles of glasses. Wireless needs to be explored.
- As a sergeant whose officers primarily are one man cars who write accidents and vehicle break ins, I did not have the necessary opportunities to fully test the equipment.
- From reviewing the video footage I have found that I like to illuminate key pieces of evidence, such as an expired temp tag, or spent cartridges on the street. I do this to draw attention to what I am observing so the viewer will also key in on what I am seeing. I have found that the flashlight will wash out what you are trying to bring attention to and it will not appear on video. I think this important to let others know so they know what to expect will be captured on video.
- Outside of what I have already stated above, I do not have any further comment at this time.
- There needs to be a dedicated place on your uniform for the BWC and what do you do in the winter when you need to wear your coat. There is no where to place it.

