



PCCEP Recommendation Development Guide

General Information of Recommendation

Name of recommendation:

Community-based Expectations and Concerns on Body Cameras from PCCEP

Date of Recommendation

10/9/19

Please write a brief description of the recommendation:

The Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP) has collected feedback from community members on their expectations and concerns regarding body cameras as a potential tool for Portland Police Bureau. PCCEP encourages PPB to take into consideration the following recommendations and concerns when considering body cameras for their officers.. This recommendation is not an endorsement of body cameras.

According to feedback from the community here are PCCEP's recommendations if PPB decides to implement on body camera pilot project or issue body cameras as standard tool for all of its officers.

1. Body cameras can increase trust if implemented properly. Transparency around the project and its implementation will be a deciding factor in whether the community sees body cameras as useful or not.
2. PPB should be transparent in how officers for the pilot project are selected. Officers for the pilot project should be randomly selected. This will help address the perception that officers are handpicked for the project based on behavior and other positive factors that could influence results.
3. There are major concerns about who is storing the data and footage captured by the body cameras and who has access to it. Some of the questions that must be answered include; How long is the data being stored? By whom? Who has access to it? If the body

camera footage is stored in a way that is seen as independent/neutral, there is public access to footage and the process of using footage is transparent then there is an opportunity for body cameras to increase public trust. If however, PPB holds sole access to footage, isn't transparent with the footage and it is not accessible to the public, trust will not be gained from the use of body cameras.

4. We suggest body camera footage be stored by an independent third-party.
5. Measures should be taken to ensure the privacy of individuals recorded in body camera footage. For example, footage of a DUI stop could be potentially embarrassing or humiliating to an individual. How do we ensure their right to privacy and prevent footage for being used for unintended purposes?
6. Officers should be made to write their police report before viewing any body camera footage. This would avoid officers tailoring their account of the incident based on what the footage shows.
7. Strict punishment for officers who turn cameras off when they are supposed to be engaged. This could include the possibility of termination
8. Public access of video should be accessible to all individuals in regard to disabilities, etc.
9. Many high-profile shootings of citizens rests on officer's testimony of "fearing for their life." This is a subjective standard. PCCEP wants to note that while body cameras can capture the use of deadly force, the decision to use force often remains subjective. Even in cases where body camera footage was captured of a use-of-force incident, officers were still cleared of any wrongdoing. This rings particularly true in the case of Jason Washington who was killed in Portland 2018 by Portland State police, for example. Further policies need to be crafted for police officer accountability in this regard.
10. Body Camera footage should not supersede other video footage such as that collected by suspect, witnesses or surveillance footage. All video evidence should be given equal weight.

What is the goal or intended outcome of this recommendation? How will this recommendation ultimately build trust between the community and the police?

The goal of this recommendation is to share the views of the community regarding body cameras if PPB decides to move forward with a pilot project or fully instate body cameras as a tool on its officers. The hope is that PPB will consider and implement most if not all of these recommendations. The community will feel more safe and have more trust in body cameras as a tool and how the data is being handled.

Is there any other information PCCEP members or the general public should know to understand this recommendation or the context in which it was developed?

At the time of the publication of this recommendation, body cameras are not an official tool of PPB. For several years PPB has considered body cameras. The effort to equip was first suggested in the mid 2010's before being revived in January of 2019. On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Mayor Wheeler pulled a City Council vote for a pilot project of body cameras for the

summer of 2019 as there was not enough support among council members and stated it was not an urgent priority.

Please list any relevant articles, statistics, reports, or research that are relevant to understanding this recommendation or its implementation, including whether or not a similar recommendation has been adopted in another city. We recommend at least three relevant articles or reports regarding your recommendation.

1. PPB Body Worn Cameras Pilot Program webpage
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/78485>
2. Body Camera Project revived <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2019/01/portland-police-revive-effort-to-equip-officers-with-body-worn-cameras.html>
3. Mayor pulls vote for body camera pilot project
<https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2019/03/mayors-push-to-see-bids-from-vendors-for-a-pilot-body-camera-program-for-portland-police-hits-a-bump.html>
4. Against body cameras: Officers with body cameras use force at same rate as officers without, study shows <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/20/upshot/a-big-test-of-police-body-cameras-defies-expectations.html>
5. For body cameras: Study shows body cameras reduce misconduct and costs for officers in Las Vegas <https://www.govtech.com/public-safety/Research-shows-police-body-worn-cameras-reduce-misconduct-and-cost-for-Las-Vegas.html>
6. Agencies in Oregon that have body cameras <https://katu.com/news/local/hillsboro-police-roll-out-body-camera-system-several-local-agencies-are-without-cameras>
7. Body Worn Cameras cost benefit study
<https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCCostBenefit.pdf>

Analysis of recommendation

Are there any current policies, efforts, or other process that address part, or all of the issue stated above? If so, please list.

No current policy exists for body cameras. The closest policy to this recommendation is policy 630.70 which outlines the policy and procedure for dash cameras on PPB vehicles.

630.70 Mobile Audio Video Procedure

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/533205>

Has this recommendation been attempted either in part or whole in any other city in the United States? If so, what was the result of these efforts.

Body cameras have been implemented in major cities and small towns across the United States including law enforcement agencies in Oregon and Multnomah County. Results are mixed. See statistics in section above. On June 28, 2018 Jason Washington was shot and killed by two

Portland State Police officers who were wearing body cameras at the time of the shooting. The officers were not charged with his death.

Local agencies with body cameras

- Hillsboro Police
- Beaverton Police
- Portland State University Campus Police
- Washington County Sheriff's Office (In the implementation process. Deputies are being trained. A trial group of 30 deputies will have cameras starting in November)
- Marion County Sheriff's Office (For traffic safety team, working on grant process for all patrol deputies)
- Oregon State Police (Patrol troopers do not have body cameras. OSP contracts police services for Oregon State University. Those officers have body cameras. So do Fish and Wildlife troopers)

Local agencies without body cameras.

- Multnomah County
- Gresham Police
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
- Vancouver Police
- Salem Police
- Washington State Patrol
- Portland Police

Source: <https://katu.com/news/local/hillsboro-police-roll-out-body-camera-system-several-local-agencies-are-without-cameras>

Cost of body cameras

	Current Annual Cost Per Camera	Current Deployment (% of Force)	Current Annual Total Cost of BWC Program	Annual Average Paid for Civil Lawsuits
Mesa	\$2,198	44%	\$725,340	\$637,327
Phoenix	\$2,883	10%	\$1,009,050	\$1,306,349
Dallas	\$1,125	30%	\$1,125,000	\$527,759

Source: <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCCostBenefit.pdf>

PPB had \$1.6 million set aside in 2016-2017 budget

Source: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/712457>

How will this recommendation impact or take into consideration people of other groups including but not limited to people with mental illness, the LGBTQ+ community and other

marginalized groups? In addition, how does this recommendation operate through a racial equity lens?

PCCEP would like to note that video footage in and of itself is not a tool to accountability. There have been high profile killings of people of color killed by police that has been captured on video including Mike Brown in Ferguson, MO, Eric Garner in New York, NY and Jason Washington here in Portland by Portland State University Police. The video evidence of their deaths did not lead to accountability for these officers by any of their agencies. Body cameras can be a step in the process but there are other steps that need to be taken to achieve PPB's stated goals with body cameras of trust, transparency and accountability. This should include stronger use-of-force, policies regarding officers who kill unarmed citizens (including but not limited to termination of officers), releasing information regarding the event in a timely and transparent matter and more compassionate interactions with the victim's family.

Development of Recommendation

How has the community been engaged to shape, develop and write this recommendation, including but not limited to, PCCEP members, community organizations, elected officials, PPB officers, etc.?

REO Committee: Sam Sachs, Marcia Perez, Lakayana Drury

Community listening session 7/18/19