

Portland Police Bureau Body Worn Camera Project

Community Peace Collaborative feedback

Jan 11, 2019

This document summarizes member comments and feedback from the Body Worn Camera presentation at the Community Peace Collaborative meeting held on Jan 11, 2019. After a brief introduction, the Bureau proposed key policy topics and emerging trends from other police agencies and asked for feedback on what Portland's policy should reflect. The feedback will be used in the policy decision meetings held later this year.

Mandatory Activation: Oregon law states a camera worn upon an officer's person will be set to record continuously, beginning when the officer develops reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that a crime or violation has occurred, is occurring or will occur and the law enforcement officer begins to make contact with the person suspected of committing the offense.

Major Theme Feedback

- There should be some sort of disciplinary action taken when an officer fails to turn on the camera per the requirement.
- Can the community member ask for the camera to be turned on if it does not fit the mandatory activation requirements?
- Will mere conversation be recorded?
- Will officers turn on the cameras for all incidents?
- What about privacy concerns for victims of domestic violence or sex crimes?
- What about privacy concerns when entering a person's home? Can they ask for the camera to be turned off?

Additional Feedback

- Why do officers get a camera and we are told to put our cameras down? Community members are told to stop recording on their cell phones or be arrested? It is legal to do so? What if there was an instance of a gun pulled due to community member using a cell phone camera?
 - Capt. Wendi Steinbronn directed the community member to report such behavior, as it would be inappropriate and out of policy. They asked how to they report the behavior. Capt. Steinbronn explained complaint process with IAD and IPR.
- Policy needs to guide the use of cameras but it will take time to get use to using the camera and equipment and to remember it needs to be turned on.
- What about cameras in the cars, can they be integrated?
 - There are a limited number of vehicles that have the in-car video system. We will ask the question of the vendors if they can integrate the systems.
- What impact do the cameras have on the officers? Is there a psychological issue for the officers knowing that they are always being recorded?
 - We may be able to have our research partner study this.
- Are there cameras on the K9s?
 - We currently have a camera system for the K9s.
- How long is the footage archived?
 - Oregon Law dictates a minimum of 180 days or the statute of limitations of the crime if evidentiary.
- Where will the footage be stored?

- Our two options are on premise or on the cloud. The decision will depend on the vendor that is selected.

Prohibited Activation: Oregon law allows for exceptions to mandatory activation provided they are based on reasonable privacy concerns, exigent circumstances or the safety of officers and other persons.

Major Theme Feedback

- What about private medical information? How do you define a treatment facility? It needs to be clearly spelled out

Deactivation: When is an officer allowed to turn off the camera?

Major Theme Feedback

- The policy needs to be clear on how to handle sexual assault victims and domestic violence victims
- The policy needs to address privacy concerns such as when officers are allowed and not allowed to record inside someone's private residence.

Citizen Notification: Oregon law requires officers to announce at the beginning of an interaction that the conversation is being obtained as long as the announcement can be accomplished without causing jeopardy to the officer or any other person and without unreasonably impairing a criminal investigation.

Major Theme Feedback

- What about when recording minors and vulnerable adults?

Officer reviewing video: Should officers be allowed to review the video prior to writing a routine report? What about reviewing the video after a critical incident (Officer Involved Shooting, Use of Force, and In-Custody Death)?

Major Theme Feedback

- There is a pretty big difference in the agencies compared. Was the Ferguson policy written before or after the Michael Brown shooting?
 - The currently policy is dated 2016 so it was approved after the shooting.
- How do the local agencies handle this one?
- This should not work against the community. This is an advantage the community member does not get.

Additional Feedback

- Once a recorded is made can it be erased?
 - The system should have security to prohibit accidental or intentional recording erasure. Raw recordings will be retained per Oregon law for a minimum of 180 days.
- The incident could be traumatic for the arrested person or victim. Do they have the ability to review the video prior to it being release to the community?

General Feedback: Unfortunately, we ran out of time prior to completing the remaining slides.

- Please come back and update us as the process continues.
- Do you have the information gathered from the 2015 meetings?
 - Yes, and we will take that feedback into consideration as well as we build the policy.
- A recommendation was made that we look at policies from agencies in Oregon. We don't want to confuse the national narrative with the local needs of Portland.

- It was recommended that we contact the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization to get their feedback.
 - Tammy will reach out to them.
- Why did we choose to reach out to Western Oregon University and not use PSU? Will WOU understand the demographics and diversity here in Portland?
 - Tammy explained that we have used PSU a lot in the past and we wanted to share these opportunities with others. WOU has a Master's program in Criminal Justice and this would be a great opportunity for their program and possibly a couple grad students for a thesis. The diversity and demographics of Portland will still be incorporated as we are doing the research here in our community. WOU, if they agree to assist, will help us to build the performance measures, collect the data, and analyze it to determine what if anything has been affected through the utilization of the cameras.