

Portland Police Bureau Body Worn Camera Project

Muslim Advisory Council feedback

Feb 2, 2019

This document summarizes member comments and feedback from the Body Worn Camera presentation at the Muslim Advisory Council meeting held on Feb 2, 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.

Retention and Release:

Oregon law states that a recording must be retained for at least 180 days but no more than 30 months for a recording not related to a court proceeding or ongoing criminal investigation, or for the same period of time that evidence is retained in the normal course of the court's business for a recording related to a court proceeding.

Prior to disclosure, the recording must be edited in a manner as to render the faces of all persons within the recording unidentifiable.

Major Theme Feedback

- There should be some statement (in a variety of languages) that explains to the person, that they are being recorded and why. Maybe a card that can be shown to community members that do not speak English that explains the cameras. The council volunteered to help with the wording.
- Red light cameras take pictures and it identifies the person, will BWCs do this.
 - No, the state law specifically says no facial recognition can be used with BWCs and faces will be blurred when video is publically released.

Additional Feedback

- There was some discussion on cultural sensitivities. For example, distance between an officer and the individual they are speaking too.
 - This seemed to be a more general issue between the bureau and the IRCO community. Tammy will pass this on to the bureau leadership about other community meetings to discuss general interactions with police.
- How will cameras improve officer safety?
 - Tammy answered that some cameras have other technology that includes things like fall sensors that can detect if an officer is no longer standing vertical and can allow supervisors to watch live video when not on scene for situational awareness. Additionally, videos can be used later as training tools.
- Recommended we add a line to the DMV manual about cameras and instructions.
 - DMV is a state entity and unlikely to put anything from one specific policy agency into their manual. We can ask to post a flier in local DMVs that explain the cameras.

Notifications: 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

- What happens if the officer forgets to notify the community member?
 - That is likely to happen in the beginning as the officers are learning to use the new equipment. This will be a training issue that we will address until it is second nature.

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

- Can the community member ask for the camera to be turned on if the situation does not meet the mandatory activation scenario?
- Does the camera have a light on it?
 - Some cameras have an activation light so there is a visual signal that the camera is on.
- Will all officers have the cameras?
 - Probably not. It is not cost effective to have officers who sit behind a desk most of the day to have the cameras. We will address who gets the cameras in the policy.
- What if the officer forgets to turn the camera on during a mandatory activation?
 - Like notification, this will probably happen in the beginning as officers are learning to conduct business with the new equipment. There will be step discipline addressed in the policy.

Discretionary Activation: Activation not covered by the mandatory situations.

Major Theme Feedback

- Most community members want little discretion.
- One member liked the Seattle idea of not recording during natural death scenes and cultural or religious objections.
- What about entering a Mosque? There are sensitive locations that should not be recorded.

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 cases with minors?
- They should have permission before recording in a house.
- What about recording interactions with the homeless or mentally ill? It is in the best interest of the office to have the camera on for safety, many people carry weapons.

Additional Feedback

- What are the recordings of the camera like? Are they on all the time?
 - The device is on all the time, but only records when you hit a button.
- Who manages the video recordings?
 - The program manager is responsible to manage the recordings. Whether the recordings are kept on premise or in the cloud will be determined with the vendor we choose.
- Will you share the video on crimes with the public and media?
 - This will vary depending on the request.

- What if the FBI or another police department requests the video?
 - This will be handled like any other records request from them.

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

Major Theme Feedback

- A member like the Seattle policy of making a statement on the recording for the reason to stop recording.

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

- The officer has to write a report from his memory, the video should be a supplement
- One member like the idea of the officer writing the report first, then viewing the video. The officer's interpretation of the scene would be helpful. It can also help them with training.
- Officers should be able to see the video so the report is clear. Officers will not remember all the details of the event.
 - Tammy cautioned that while the videos will help, they are not a silver bullet and will not always catch everything that is going on. They are simply another tool to help put the scene back together.
- If an officer works 4pm and an event happens at 1am, they have to stay until 6am to get their report done if they have to watch a video. They should write, then watch later before they finish the report to give to the supervisor for approval.
- What is the downside of the officer viewing the video once or twice? Every ones goal is to improve the reality of the situation?

Additional Feedback

- One member was very supportive of the camera and believe complaints would go away quickly.
- Will we have in car and on body cameras?
 - We currently have in car video, however it is a very limited number. We will reevaluate the need to keep in car after the Body Worn is implemented.
- The videos could save money because they answer more questions and complete a case quicker.

Policy Group? What is the make-up of the group?

Looking for truth – and facts – have to have the priority to do it.

General Feedback:

- Can we ask more questions later?
 - Yes, the website has a feedback link that you can email questions to Tammy. Natasha will email out the link.
- What do the officer's think of the cameras?
 - We are working on a partnership with a local university for research. We plan to do a survey for officers and community members prior to the pilot and after.
- Have there been any studies on the results of BWCs?
 - Yes, but the results vary. More research needs to be done.