

Portland Police Bureau Body Worn Camera Project

Alliance for Safer Communities feedback

Feb 12, 2019

This document summarizes member comments and feedback from the Body Worn Camera presentation at the Alliance for Safer Communities meeting held on Feb 12, 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

- Recording in the home should be prohibited.
- What about consensual contacts? It is important to capture all contacts.
- There is a category of interactions where people are stopped for being black, these should be recorded. Like traffic stops.
- Making everything mandatory could be an issue, there should be exceptions.
- Discretion can lead to problems too, make it mandatory.
- What about victim's rights? Some victims do not want to be on camera. It would be distressing to have information released that was private or traumatic.

Additional Feedback:

- Has there been research on the officers' interaction improving? Has it reduced officer complaints?
 - The research varies.
- Seattle had issue with their program.

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

- Filming of juveniles should not happen without permission from an adult.
- But having the camera on shows that the interview with the juvenile was not coerced or forceful.

Discretionary or Temporary Deactivation: When should the officer have discretion?

Major Theme Feedback

- What about persons in mental health crisis? Do we record them?
- What happens if an officer chooses to not turn on the camera? What are the consequences?
- What about the mental load on the officer? We already ask a lot of the officers and now they are under surveillance all the time. Can they handle this demand on them?

Additional Feedback

- How many people will pilot the cameras?
- Is there an indicator light to show the camera is on?
- Can these videos be used to improve training for the officers in mental health situations? How do we handle ethical considerations and balance that with a persons' privacy?

- Will the data be available for researchers to look at? Can someone do fishing in the data?
- There is going to be an impact on prosecutor's time. There will be an increased workload for the DA.
- Can the defense attorney place a hold on the data so it does not get deleted after 180 days?

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

Major Theme Feedback

- Is there a remote override that a supervisor could turn the camera on or off?
- Does a supervisor at the precinct know if the camera is on or off?
- Is there a way to track the discretionary camera use?

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

- I like Oakland's approach. It is a good compromise allowing for the difference between the camera and the human brain and what it saw.
- I like Oakland's approach. It is better than the 48 or 72 hour rule to not interview officers until after a period of time.
- Is this just on critical incidents or after any incident?

Additional Feedback

- What can the cameras see? Can it see in the dark?
 - Varies by vendor: the range, depth of field, low light capability
- Is there a variety of places to wear the camera?
 - Yes, depending on the vendor, but the most common are eyeglasses, shoulder, and chest.
- What about jurisdiction issues. There are a lot of instances where Portland works with the County and the State on cases. Who has access to the videos? Will agencies share videos?
- This will increase the public records requests which is already slow. Will PPB get additional personnel to handle the new technology?
 - Yes, there are 3 FTEs in the budget specifically for public records.

General Feedback:

- Can I share this slideshow on social media?
 - Yes, the slides are on our website and you are welcome to share and invite others to attend the open forum Town Halls to provide their comments and thoughts on how we should proceed.
- What about misuse of the video?
- Can community members request that the camera be turned on during their interaction with the officer?
- What are the protections for the data?
- What are the research considerations? This is a treasure trove of information for researchers. Is there someone to allow them to use the data?