

Facts about Body Worn Cameras (BWC)

Fiscally responsible

U.S. law enforcement spends approximately \$2 billion in settlements each year to resolve claims. Agencies using BWCs report a dramatic decrease in complaints and claims.

Improves behavior

BWCs improve the behavior of all parties during police interactions and keeps everyone accountable.

Tells the story

BWCs serves as an independent 3rd eye account of an interaction capturing what an officer sees from their point of view from start to finish, not just a YouTube video clip showing a portion of the activity.

Reduces false complaints and lawsuits

BWCs accurately capture video from the officer's perspective (point of view camera) thus reducing false complaints and lawsuits.

Enhances public trust

BWCs document police interacting with their community, enhancing public trust and creating safer communities.

Support Transparency

Using BWCs documents citizen and officer behavior of an event from start to finish and can show a true account of an incident.

Pre-event video buffer

BWCs utilize a pre-event video, not audio, buffer that captures the important 30-seconds of an activity before the camera is activated.

Low light recording

Low light recording best shows what the human eye actually sees.

Evidence

The videos are considered evidence or records of interactions and are subject to retention policies and protection of records.

BWCs:

- are on all the time, streaming data but not recording until a button is activated,
- recordings are stored on a SD card in the camera,
- devices have a 10-12 hour battery life,
- agency policy gives direction to officers when to activate the recording device,
- recordings are evidence or official record and NOT used as a surveillance tool
- recording are not used to embarrass people, but rather accurately document interactions

Cameras and Police

Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) has been using dash-mounted cameras since the early 1990's documenting traffic stops and criminal activity. FCPS tested BWCs on two District One officers in August 2012 and expanded to twenty cameras in the fall of 2012. All District One officers were equipped with BWCs in January 2013 and the additional devices deployed with selected uniformed officers. FCPS ultimately envisions equipping all officers with pen-sized body worn cameras to record interactions for traffic stops, arrests, disturbances, etc.

The future

BWCs are seen as the future in policing with their use supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Executive Research Forum, etc.