Council Meeting: 02/01/2022 Agenda: Special Presentation Item #: 8. b.



MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Cherie Harris, Chief of Police

Melissa Petrichor, Administrative Commander

Veronica Hill, Senior Financial Analyst

Date: January 21, 2022

Subject: Body Worn Camera Project

Recommendation:

City Council receives an update on Officer Body Worn Cameras and identifies issues and information that Council needs for consideration of a Body Worn Camera program in Kirkland.

Background:

Following the events in Ferguson, Missouri, approximately seven years ago, the City considered deploying Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for police officers. Experience, best practices, and the legal environment concerning BWCs were under-developed and not well-defined at that time. Staff's recommendation was to defer consideration of BWC in Kirkland until the legal environment stabilized and matured, and more experience was gained across the state and nation to identify best practices for the use of body cameras.

On May 5, 2020, the City Council requested an update on BWCs to include the Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force results on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras, current public disclosure laws, and an estimate of the cost involved in deploying BWC in the form of an issue paper.

On July 7, 2020, during the Strategic Plan update and a presentation on use of force, Chief Harris provided a preliminary update on research the Department was conducting on BWC programs. This included a brief summary of the perceived benefits & concerns, considerations for implementation, policy considerations and a rough estimate of costs associated with a BWC program. These costs included the initial cost of acquiring 130 BWCs, and the required full-time employees (FTE) to manage the digital evidence processing and the increase in public disclosure requests created by the cameras.

On August 8, 2020, the Council adopted Resolution 5434 to improve the safety and respect of Black people, which included Section 2e. "Developing a police body camera pilot program."

On October 21, 2020, with assistance from Intern Heidi Brown, a third-year law school student at Seattle University School of Law, Commander Petrichor authored an extensive BWC issue

paper that provided an in-depth analysis of implementing a program in Kirkland. This document is provided for reference as **Attachment A.**

The 2021-2022 Community Safety Initiative budget includes a place holder for a BWC pilot program in 2022, the funding for the initial set up of equipment, and two full time FTE's to manage the digital information and the public records requests.

The topic of BWC was included as part of the R-5434 community engagement process of late 2020 and early 2021. As directed in R-5434, that process included conversations with formal and informal Black-led community groups, Black community leaders, youth, and community members, and other people of color in a series of focus groups. Although not discussed by all groups, a BWC program, if done correctly, generally received strong support from the groups that did prioritize discussing it. A compilation of the raw notes taken by staff from those focus groups pertaining to BWC is included as **Attachment B.**

Body worn camera grant

In July 2021, Commander Petrichor with support from Senior Financial Analyst Veronica Hill, submitted a U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant application to support the purchase of BWC's. The overview of the grant program included the following statement; "...Law enforcement agencies across the country and worldwide are using bodyworn cameras as a promising tool to improve law enforcement interactions with the public. Some preliminary evidence indicates that the presence of BWCs helps strengthen accountability and transparency, and can assist in deescalating conflicts, resulting in more constructive encounters between the police and members of the community. Funding can be used to support pilot BWC programs, establish new BWC implementation, or expand existing programs...BWC programs are an important tool that could be an integrated part of a jurisdiction's holistic problem-solving and community-engagement strategy, helping to increase both trust and communication between the police and the communities they serve. BWCs can be highly effective, providing an objective audio and visual record of interactions that can capture empirical evidence in the event of a crime, police-citizen interaction, or use-of-force incident."

Staff expected notifications to be made on or before October 1, 2021. Commander Petrichor closely monitored the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BAJ) award notification site and was under the belief that the Department's application would be denied after not receiving any form of communication from the BAJ. On December 17, 2021 both Mayor Sweet and Chief Harris received an email notification from Congresswoman DelBene, congratulating the Department on the successful grant award. To the surprise of the command staff, Commander Petrichor later received notification from BAJ that the Department was awarded approximately \$220,000 dollars to purchase the initial equipment needed to implement a BWC program.

The grant acceptance deadline was January 31, 2022, but the grant does not provide a monetary award until the Department has successfully developed comprehensive BWC policies that meet BJA certification requirements. At the January 18 Council meeting, the City Manager highlighted that the City would accept the grant, but acceptance did not commit the City to implementing a BWC program. Certification of Department BWC policies must occur by June 1, 2022. In addition, the two FTE's must be hired by September 1, 2022 to comply with the parameters of the grant award. If the City Council chooses not to implement a BWC program in Kirkland, the Department will notify BJA of the decision and apply to return the grant award.

There are a number of laws governing the use of BWC's, such as RCW 10.109.020, that strongly encourage the legislative body of a City to adopt an ordinance or resolution authorizing their use prior to implementation. Staff recommends that Kirkland adopt legislation if the City decides to implement a program. Ordinances should identify a community involvement process for providing input into the development of operational policies governing the use of BWC. In collaboration with the City Manager's Office, a BWC Themed Resident Engagement of Kirkland (TREK) is in development that will engage the community on the BWC policies and will include broad outreach to the community at large and focused outreach to the groups identified through the R-5434 process and other community groups. The initial engagement plan is anticipated to include:

- Town Hall style organizing event
- Follow up with focus groups
- Individual interviews
- Online engagement (City website landing page, surveys etc.)

In addition to identifying a community involvement process, RCW 10.109.010 requires the Department to establish policies regarding the use of BWCs and determine, at a minimum:

- When cameras are activated and deactivated
- How the public will be informed that they are being recorded
- Training and security rules to protect data collection and storage

As discussed above, development of these polices are also imperative to meeting the BAJ Grant award.

The use of BWCs is considered a change in working conditions that would require bargaining with the Kirkland Police Guild. Generally, Officers are supportive of BWC program and believe that video footage of their interactions within the community would provide proof of both their respectful treatment of others and their courageous work.

The Department would use the DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance Body-Worn Camera Implementation Checklist as a guide to developing a three-phased project; an Initiation Phase, a Planning and Procurement Phase, and an Execution/Implementation Phase. Deliverable from each phase would be reviewed and approved before moving on to the next phase.

The core values of the project (guiding principles) are to:

- Develop clear, well-defined policies and procedures that safeguard civil rights, adhere to applicable laws, and are consistent with industry best practices
- Focus on the following key objectives: promote departmental transparency and accountability, enhance officer and public safety, reduce use-of-force incidents and customer complaints, and increase evidentiary quality leading to effective case adjudication
- Establish a vigorous communication and education BWC platform providing extensive, ongoing training for officers, timely and effective community updates, and resources to support crime victims

<u>Planning Phase</u>

- Develop, manage, and monitor an all-inclusive public outreach and communication plan by identifying and analyzing the engagement needs of the stakeholders.
- Establish working partnerships with allied criminal justice agencies, bargaining units, and civic organizations to solicit project input.
- Effectively bargain BWC program impacts with the Guild.
- Establish interactive community communication channels to provide BWC resources and education.
- Identify and draft agreement deliverables such as a BWC city ordinance or resolution, interlocal agreements, contract MOUs
- Plan cost management and determine a budget baseline to ensure fiscal compliance and accountability.
- Draft clear and specific BWC policies and procedures that safeguard civil rights.
- Identify and finalize BWC technology requirements and program specifications needed for the RFP and contract procurement.
- Analyze additional personnel requirements, draft job descriptions, and plan recruitment strategies.
- Establish a work plan for BWC implementation with the City Attorney's Office and affected bargaining groups.
- Design and implement project and program tracking mechanisms for pre and post BWC implementation statistical analysis.

Execution Phase (If City proceeds)

- Develop a BWC training plan, materials, and timeline for officers, supervisors, and command staff.
- Design a pre-launch testing plan to mitigate identified risks.
- Provide BWC training for all personnel.
- Initiate phased implementation of BWCs.
- Continue to monitor project communications and stakeholder engagement.
- Continue focused stakeholder outreach to groups identified in the R-5434 engagement and others such as the Inclusion Network.
- Continue community outreach strategy for the general public including public forums, neighborhood meetings, and opportunities to speak to civic groups.
- Manage and control project costs.

Closeout and Monitoring Phase

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the BWC training program and identify any gaps or additional training opportunities.
- Further develop BWC community resources and education.
- Establish and launch post-BWC project statistical reporting structure.
- Formally close the project with a detailed final project report.

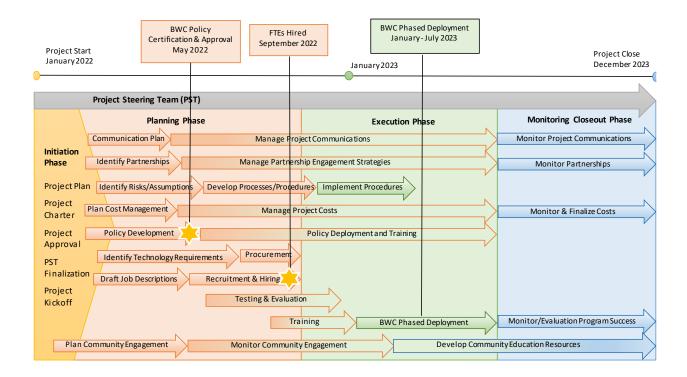
In order to successfully implement this program, an inter-departmental Project Steering Team (PST) will represent the key stakeholders with oversight from the City Manager's Office. The PST holds the primary responsibility for implementing the BWC program by directing and managing all project work, including project timelines and benchmarks, collecting and analyzing project performance metrics, monitoring project assumptions and risks, documenting and achieving all project information and monitoring stakeholder engagement. The PST will meet

regularly to review team deliverables, analyze critical paths, and document performance measures. In addition, the PST reviews each phase to determine organizational strategic alignment before proceeding to the next phase. The project manager, Commander Petrichor will work collaboratively with the PST, the project sponsor Chief Harris, and the City Manager's Office, who will be responsible for project oversight.

There are a number of risks that the Department acknowledges will need to be monitored such as:

- There are no dedicated resources to implementing the project. All work will be absorbed by current Staff.
- Pandemic related delays could occur to include having healthy Staff to implement the project, delays in receiving equipment (supply chain issues) and or training.
- External environmental issues such as new BWC legislation or a change in best practices.
- A rejection of a BWC program by the community.

The following chart depicts the proposed implementation strategy and timeline:



Budget:

As previously discussed, implementing a BWC program has significant financial costs associated with the equipment, digital storage and the staff needed to process digital evidence, and conduct disclosure, retention, and destruction of the video footage.

The following chart depicts the project start-up costs in Year 1 (2022) and Year 2 (2023) if the Council elects to proceed with the program:

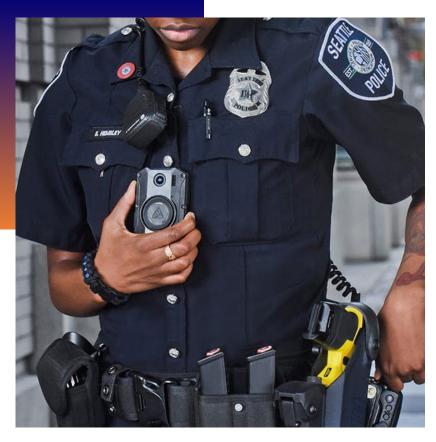
Project Start-Up Costs	Year 1		Year 2		Total	
Equipment and Storage	\$	150,000	\$	209,880	\$	359,880
Training			\$	25,000	\$	25,000
Evidence Technician (1 FTE)	\$	30,290	\$	110,513	\$	140,803
Public Disclosure Analyst (1 FTE)	\$	33,541	\$	123,174	\$	156,715
DOJ BWC Grant Award			\$	(220,000)	\$	(220,000)
Total Estimated Costs	\$	213,831	\$	248,567	\$	462,398

This budget includes leasing BWC equipment, hiring administrative staff by September 1, 2022 and the initial training of officers on use of and operation of the cameras. The BAJ federal grant award of \$220,000 will support Year 1 and Year 2 program start up and implementation.

City of Kirkland general funds committed to the BWC program is estimated at \$462,398 for the combined Year 1 and Year 2.

Next steps:

Staff would like to collect feedback from the Council and identify issues and information that Council needs for consideration of a Body Worn Camera program in Kirkland.





Body-Worn Cameras

Kirkland Police Department September 2020

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
HISTORY	3
OVERVIEW OF BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM	3
Accountability and Transparency	4
Identifying and Correcting Internal Agency Issues	4
Reducing Complaints	4
Evidentiary Outcomes	4
CONSIDERATIONS	5
Privacy Concerns	5
When to Record	5
Consent	7
Health Care Facilities	7
Retention	7
Disclosure	8
Data Storage and Management	10
Community Input	10
Officer Concerns	11
COST	11
Equipment	12
Storage	12
Personnel	13
REGIONAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAMS	13
RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS	16
WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE REPORT	16
SPECIFIC BWC STUDIES	17
STATEMENTS FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS	21
FEDERAL BILL	23
COLIBORS	22

INTRODUCTION

Recent high-profile cases involving police use-of-force have fueled a national conversation about police reform. A central topic and proposed solution to increasing police accountability and transparency is the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs). Implementing BWCs can demonstrate that a police agency is willing to be transparent and accountable for its actions. Research provides support that BWCs can lead to reductions in use-of-force incidents and citizen complaints. Because BWCs provide an audio-visual recording of encounters between police and the public, BWCs may encourage officers and community members to maintain a higher standard of behavior during an incident, ultimately leading to an increase in mutual respect and safety. While a BWC cannot replace an Officer's "perception," it may enhance their memory particularly in complex and stressful interactions.

Along with the perceived benefits of a BWC program, research studies have stressed the importance of expertly navigating the many concerns associated with a BWC program before implementation. The cost of deploying a BWC program agency-wide can be substantial. In addition to the costs associated with purchasing the cameras, there are significant on-going costs involved in managing and storing BWC video data. The most significant obstacle to implementing a BWC program is the cost. This report provides a high-level overview of BWCs. If the decision is made to proceed with a Kirkland Police BWC program, the recommendation is to develop a three-phased project with the initial phase focused on concept development, stakeholder engagement, and a feasibility study.

HISTORY

Following the events in Ferguson, Missouri, approximately five years ago, the City first looked at deploying BWCs for police officers. Experience, best practices, and the legal environment concerning BWCs were under-developed and not well-defined at that time. Staff's recommendation was to defer consideration of body cameras in Kirkland until the legal environment stabilized and matured, and more experience was gained across the state and nation to identify best practices for the use of body cameras. With the passage of Resolution 5434 in August 2020, the City Council has affirmed their commitment to increasing transparency through a BWC pilot program.

OVERVIEW OF BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

Nationally, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics¹ published in November 2018, based on data collected in 2016, 47% of general-purpose law enforcement agencies had acquired BWCs.

¹ Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement Agencies, 2016. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bwclea16.pdf

Of those, 80% of agencies listed the main reasons for BWCs were improving officer safety, increasing evidence quality, reducing civilian complaints, and reducing agency liability.

Accountability and Transparency

Body-worn camera deployment focuses on accountability and transparency for both police officers and the community. In 2012, two agencies (Rialto Police, CA, and Mesa Police, AZ) conducted studies² on the deployment of BWCs in their agencies. Both agencies saw a reduction of citizen complaints and use of force incidents with officers that had BWCs. In these studies, police and city officials remarked that BWCs encouraged improved behavior from both citizens and officers. The ability to record interactions between police and the community is thought to hold officers more accountable for their behavior and promote professionalism in their actions.

Identifying and Correcting Internal Agency Issues

Body-worn cameras can also assist with the identification and correction of internal agency issues. Phoenix Police (AZ)³ and Daytona Beach Police (FL) publicly spoke about officers' dismissal after BWCs uncovered behavior contrary to their department policies. The use of BWCs can lead to greater transparency in department actions, while quelling unfounded community complaints.

Reducing Complaints

A National Institute of Justice Study on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department⁴ published in December 2017 found that officers with BWCs generated fewer use-of-force reports and complaints from citizens than officers without BWCs. Additionally, officers with BWCs had higher numbers of arrests and citations than officers without BWCs.

Evidentiary Outcomes

Body-worn cameras have significantly improved how officers capture evidence for investigations and court proceedings. BWCs record victim, witness, and suspect statements, use of force incidents, crime scene filming, and other interactions with the community. BWC also captures law enforcement contacts in recordings that can assist in complaint investigations, lawsuits, or other alleged police behavior claims.

² How police body cameras can improve behavior, ease tension. (2016, October 21). San Diego Union Tribune. https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/sd-policy-body-cameras-20161021-story.html

³ Body-Worn Camera Toolkit, Bureau of Justice Assistance. https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/BWC FAQs.pdf

⁴ The Benefits of Body-Worn Cameras: new findings from a randomized controlled trial at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/251416.pdf

CONSIDERATIONS

Privacy Concerns

Body-worn cameras raise many privacy concerns caused by the placement and mobility of BWCs. BWCs can simultaneously record both audio and video and capture close-up images that allow for the potential use of facial recognition technology. Due to the fluidity of law enforcement work, BWCs record more than public space stationary cameras. Officers could potentially record inside private residences and other non-public areas, and film sensitive situations that might emerge during calls for service. Significant privacy concerns can also arise when interviewing crime victims, particularly in situations involving rape, abuse, or other sensitive matters. When implementing BWCs, law enforcement agencies must balance these privacy considerations with the need for transparency of police operations, accurate documentation of events, and evidence collection. Research has shown that law enforcement agencies have taken many different approaches to address privacy concerns. Developing formal, comprehensive BWC policies specific to the City of Kirkland's unique needs will be essential in building the foundation that supports all aspects of a BWC program.

When to Record

A forefront question is when should BWCs be activated and deactivated. Certain situations encountered by officers may not be suitable or socially acceptable for recording. Community members may not accept being recorded during community contacts by police, such as bicycle patrol or foot patrol officers talking to neighborhood residents or park-goers.

It is generally up to each police department within Washington State to determine their BWC policy when cameras are activated/deactivated. However, RCW 10.109.010⁵ lays out what the policy needs to speak to concerning BWCs:

- (1) A law enforcement or corrections agency that deploys body worn cameras must establish policies regarding the use of the cameras. The policies must, at a minimum, address:
 - (a) When a body worn camera must be activated and deactivated, and when a law enforcement or corrections officer has the discretion to activate and deactivate the body worn camera;
 - (b) How a law enforcement or corrections officer is to respond to circumstances when it would be reasonably anticipated that a person may be unwilling or less

⁵ RCW 10.109.010 https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=10.109.010

willing to communicate with an officer who is recording the communication with a body worn camera;

- (c) How a law enforcement or corrections officer will document when and why a body worn camera was deactivated prior to the conclusion of an interaction with a member of the public while conducting official law enforcement or corrections business;
- (d) How, and under what circumstances, a law enforcement or corrections officer is to inform a member of the public that he or she is being recorded, including in situations where the person is a non-English speaker or has limited English proficiency, or where the person is deaf or hard of hearing;
- (e) How officers are to be trained on body worn camera usage and how frequently the training is to be reviewed or renewed; and
- (f) Security rules to protect data collected and stored from body worn cameras.

RCW 42.56.240(14)(a)⁶ implies that cameras may be activated in places where one has a reasonable expectation of privacy, including a person's home, by exempting such BWC footage from public disclosure. It is up to the department to decide whether to generally have BWCs activated in someone's home, whether to inform the person or request consent from them, and whether to activate or deactivate the BWC based on the individual's requests. One approach is to have officers record every encounter with the public. This is the approach advocated by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which stated in a report released in October 2013⁷, "If a police department is to place its cameras under officer control, then it must put in place tightly effective means of limiting officers' ability to choose which encounters to record. That can only take the form of a department-wide policy that mandates that police turn on recording during every interaction with the public." A more common approach requires officers to activate BWCs during any law enforcement activity, such as traffic stops, social contacts in the community, Terry stops (brief detention based on reasonable suspicion a crime has occurred), arrests, searches, etc. This approach would require defining a "law enforcement activity" and what should and should not be recorded. Limiting officer discretion would also need to be defined and discussed, as broad or unclear guidelines on officer discretion for recording could lead to community inquiries and mistrust.

⁶ RCW 42.56.240 https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.56.240

⁷ Jay Stanley, ACLU Senior Policy Analyst, *Police Body-Worn Mounted Cameras: With Right Policies in Place, a Win for All* (October 2013). https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/police body-mounted cameras.pdf

Consent

As Washington State is a two/all-party consent state when it comes to recordings, RCW 9.73.030(3)⁸ defines that advising a person they are being recorded is considered obtaining consent:

"Where consent by all parties is needed pursuant to this chapter, consent shall be considered obtained whenever one party has announced to all other parties engaged in the communication or conversation, in any reasonably effective manner, that such communication or conversation is about to be recorded or transmitted: PROVIDED, That if the conversation is to be recorded that said announcement shall also be recorded."

This RCW also addresses that recordings "of an emergency nature, such as the reporting of a fire, medical emergency, crime, or disaster," does not require all-party consent. BWCs may have a disproportionate impact on those with disadvantaged positions, such as people with mental illness, who are homeless, or who are otherwise in crisis. Their ability to acknowledge or consent to filming in personal situations may be hampered. In addition to comprehensive policies, effective BWC training programs prior to implementation are critical and cannot be understated.

Health Care Facilities

While Washington State law prohibits the disclosure of BWC recordings from medical facilities where an individual is receiving treatment or health care information, consideration should be made on whether to record non-law enforcement action in medical facilities and officers' BWCs recording medical treatment on-scene of a call for service.

Retention

The retention of BWC recordings is an essential factor for the privacy of those recorded. The longer recorded videos are retained, the longer they are subject to public disclosure, which can be problematic if the video contains footage associated with privacy concerns. Community members' concerns about police departments collecting their personal data can be lessened if the videos are not retained for long periods of time.

The City of Kirkland currently follows all State of Washington retention schedules. The Washington State Office of the Secretary of State provided clarification for BWC footage retention in accordance with RCW 40.14.070⁹:

If an incident (defined as a unique or unusual action from which litigation or criminal prosecution is expected or likely to result) is captured on a BWC, then any recording(s) must be retained until the matter has been resolved and the appeals process has been

⁸ RCW 9.73.030 https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rCW/default.aspx?cite=9.73.030

⁹ RCW 40.14.060 https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=40.14.070

exhausted. Once the matter is resolved and there can be no further appeals, then the recording(s) must be destroyed. LE09-01-08 Rev. $3.\frac{10}{10}$

If an incident as defined above is not captured on a BWC, then any recording(s) must be retained for 60 days from the date of recording. After 60 days from the time the footage was captured, the recording(s) can be destroyed. LE2016-001 Rev. $1.\frac{11}{2}$

Disclosure

Disclosure of BWCs can promote transparency and accountability but can also create privacy concerns for recordings of victims, sensitive incidents/investigations, or from private areas. BWC recordings, once released, may be posted online and circulated on social media by members of the public.

Washington State has RCWs speaking directly to the release of BWC recordings.

<u>RCW 42.56.240</u> (14)¹² Body worn camera recordings to the extent nondisclosure is essential for the protection of any person's right to privacy as described in RCW 42.56.050¹³, including, but not limited to, the circumstances enumerated in (a) of this subsection. A law enforcement or corrections agency shall not disclose a body worn camera recording to the extent the recording is exempt under this subsection.

The Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras ¹⁴ states "invasion of a person's right to privacy under the Public Records Act is defined to mean disclosure of information that would be both highly offensive to a reasonable person and not of legitimate concern to the public."

Disclosure of a body worn camera recording is presumed to be highly offensive to a reasonable person under RCW 42.56.050¹⁵ to the extent it depicts:

- Any areas of a medical facility, counseling, or therapeutic program office where:
- A patient is registered to receive treatment, receiving treatment, waiting for treatment, or being transported in the course of treatment; or

¹⁰ How Long Do Police Body Cam Recordings Need to Be Kept? (2018, October). Office of the Secretary of State Washington State Archives. https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/archives/recordsmanagement/advice-sheet-how-long-do-police-body-cam-recordings-need-to-be-kept-(october-2018).pdf

¹¹ Id.

¹² RCW 42.56.240 https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.56.240

¹³ RCW 42.56.050 https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.56.050

¹⁴ WA State Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Body Worn Cameras(2017) http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/Archive/UBWC/Documents/UBWC-FinalRpt.pdf ¹⁵ Id

- Health care information is shared with patients, their families, or among the care team;
 or
- Information that meets the definition of protected health information for purposes of the health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 or health care information for purposes of chapter 70.02 RCW;
- The interior of a place of residence where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy;
- An intimate image;
- A minor;
- The body of a deceased person;
- The identity of or communications from a victim or witness of an incident involving domestic violence as defined in RCW 10.99.020 or sexual assault as defined in RCW 70.125.030, or disclosure of intimate images as defined in RCW 9A.86.010. If at the time of recording the victim or witness indicates a desire for disclosure or nondisclosure of the recorded identity or communications, such desire shall govern; or
- The identifiable location information of a community-based domestic violence program as defined in RCW 70.123.020, or emergency shelter as defined in RCW 70.123.020.

The presumption of privacy in the above-listed cases may be rebutted by specific evidence in individual cases. See RCW $42.56.240(14)^{16}$ (a) and (b) for full details.

RCW 42.56.240(14)(d) $\frac{17}{}$ -A request for BWC recordings must:

- Specifically identify a name of a person or persons involved in the incident;
- Provide the incident or case number;
- Provide the date, time, and location of the incident or incidents; or
- Identify a law enforcement officer involved in the incident(s).

Any member of the public may request the BWC footage.

RCW 42.56.240(14)(e) 18 , the following people can rightfully make a public records request for BWC footage:

- A person directly involved in an incident recorded by the requested footage
- An attorney representing a person directly involved in an incident recorded by the BWC

¹⁶ RCW 42.56.240. https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.56.240

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ *Id*.

- An attorney representing a person regarding a potential or existing civil cause of action involving the denial of civil rights under the federal or state Constitution, or a violation of a US department of justice settlement agreement
 - o To obtain the footage, the attorney must explain the relevancy of the requested BWC recording to the cause of action and specify that they are seeking relief from redaction costs under subsection (14)(e).
- The executive director from either the Washington state commission on African American Affairs, Asian Pacific American affairs, or Hispanic affairs

Any other member of the public may request the footage as well, as long as they comply with the requirements listed above. However, the police department may charge the individual for reasonable costs of redacting the video in that case; redaction may be necessary, as a member of the public who was not directly involved in the incident (or their attorney) does not automatically have the right to unedited footage, as that could violate the involved individuals' privacy. RCW $42.56.240(14)(e)^{19}$.

Data Storage and Management

Body-worn camera recordings are stored digitally and record a significant amount of footage requiring a large amount of digital media storage space. In addition to a comprehensive, secure digital media storage solution, direct media management and oversight is needed. Consideration for additional personnel to categorize recordings, determine retention schedules, perform redaction and transcription, and destroy media in a timely manner is imperative.

Community Input

The implementation of BWCs has led to concerns regarding the ability of police to build relationships while community members are being recorded. There are fears that people will be less likely to come forward to share information if they know their conversation is going to be recorded, particularly in high-crime neighborhoods where residents might be subject to retaliation if they are seen as cooperating with police.

Certain community groups may experience a disproportionate impact from BWCs, such as those with mental illness, who are homeless or are otherwise in crises. Depending on how data sharing policies are implemented, BWCs may be perceived as being used to target immigrant/non-citizen community member populations. BWCs may put victims or reporting parties at risk for identification, which could lessen the incentive to report criminal activity.

¹⁹ RCW 42.56.240. https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.56.240

Per RCW 10.109.020²⁰ "a legislative authority of a city or town is strongly encouraged to adopt an ordinance or resolution authorizing the use of BWCs prior to their use by law enforcement or a corrections agency. Any ordinance or resolution authorizing the use of BWCs should identify a community involvement process for providing input into the development of operational policies governing the use of BWCs." RCW 10.109.020 encourages community involvement for the implementation of BWCs. Transparency about the agency's camera policies and practices, both prior to and after implementation, can help increase public acceptance and hold agencies accountable.

Community involvement as stakeholders prior to the implementation of a BWCs program is strongly encouraged. Engaging the community can help secure support for the program and increase the perceived legitimacy of the program in the community.

Officer Concerns

Any BWC program implementation will require discussions/collective bargaining with the Kirkland Police Guild. To be successful, officer support for a BWC program is needed. Officer concerns can include the additional level of scrutiny of their actions, the ability to review footage prior to writing reports, understanding policies on what is recorded and released, and the effects of public disclosure requests.

One of the factors that will need to be addressed is how the Department and City will use camera footage to monitor officer performance. Most agencies permit supervisors to review videos so they can investigate a specific incident or complaint, identify videos for training purposes, ensure the system is working, and monitor overall compliance with the camera program. However, whether supervisors should also periodically and randomly review videos to monitor officer performance may be a point of contention for officers. Some agencies allow periodic monitoring to help proactively identify problems and hold officers accountable for their performance. Other agencies permit periodic monitoring only in certain circumstances, such as when an officer is still in a probationary period, or after an officer has received a certain number of complaints.

Body-worn cameras would be considered a change in working conditions and would be subject to the collective bargaining agreement.

COST

A City of Kirkland Request for Information (RFI) for BWCs was opened August 19, 2020 – August 31, 2020. The RFI requested information in the following areas:

- General Body Camera Information
- Video and Optics

²⁰ RCW https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=10.109.020

- Audio
- Data Upload
- Battery Information
- GPS
- Safeguards
- Video Data Storage Management
- Warranty and Maintenance Plans
- Costs

While eight BWC vendors responded to the RFI and provided valuable equipment and storage information, a Request for Proposal (RFP) would yield more detailed cost options specific to the Kirkland Police Department.

A BWC program's cost can be divided into three general cost categories, equipment, storage, and personnel.

Equipment

Although equipment costs appear to be relatively straightforward, there is a wide variety of camera options and camera components. Camera components include different mounts, adapters, docking stations, and portable chargers. And along with each piece of equipment comes a variety of warranty and technical support options.

Storage

Research suggests that many police departments have discontinued their BWC programs due to the on-going high cost of data storage. The eight RFI responses included a variety of different storage options. Some of the options included paying per terabyte of storage, paying storage per officer, free unlimited storage for a time period (90 days, one year), and unlimited storage per camera. The cost of data storage depends on how many videos are produced, how long the videos are kept, and where the videos are stored. To compound the issue of storage costs, retention requirements for BWC video are evolving and could directly impact the amount of video data required to be retained, increasing costs associated with storage. Unlimited storage per camera is recommended; however, the costs for unlimited storage per camera is dependent on the department's retention and Freedom of Information Act policies. Careful analysis of proposed contract storage costs and options, as well as assessing and reassessing the future storage needs of the department, will be crucial to the success of the program.

Personnel

Administering a BWC program requires ongoing financial and staffing commitments. Research suggests two of the most significant administrative costs associated with a BWC program are the program's overall management, including reviewing and categorizing thousands of hours of video, and the increase in disclosure requests from the public and the news media for BWC videos. An additional Evidence Technician FTE for managing the BWC program and an additional Public Records Analyst FTE are recommended as the current staff (one full time Public Records Analyst and two Evidence Technicians) could not absorb this work. This recommendation is based on the experience of other Departments who have implemented BWC programs due to the large volume of evidence that is created along with the need for redaction of video prior to release to the public.

A BWC program needs to be designed to meet the department's long-term goals beyond the initial five-year contract. Conceptual cost planning without detailed analysis and accurate forecasting is not an option. Careful consideration and scrutiny of vendor proposals is imperative.

Below is an <u>initial high-level estimate</u> of the cost associated with a BWC program that includes unlimited storage per camera for 130 cameras:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Equipment and Storage	365,000	215,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
FTE Evidence Technician	98,791	104,551	110,513	117,696	125,347
FTE Public Disclosure Analyst	109,772	116,175	123,174	131,180	139,707
Total Estimated Costs	573,563	435,726	433,687	448,876	465,054
Total Five Year Estimate	2,356,906				

REGIONAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAMS

The Department conducted a survey of agencies currently deploying BWC to include those that had participated in the Joint Legislative Task Force in 2016. The results show a wide variety of deployment to include programs that do not require every uniformed Officer to participate. Several agencies also integrate in-car camera systems with their BWC program. The current cost estimates only cover Officer worn BWC and do not include an integrated in-car camera system.

Auburn

- Every patrol vehicle has in-car camera.
- Officers who do not operate patrol vehicles with in-car cameras (traffic, parking enforcement, bicycle officers) are equipped with body cameras.

Bainbridge Island

- Began equipping some officers with BWCs in 2013 on a nonmandatory basis
- All officers are now required to wear BWCs.

- BWCs automatically activate when an officer draws a firearm, taser, or turns on emergency lights on a vehicle.

Bellevue Police Department

- Completed a pilot program
- Program was discontinued due financial cost and issues raised during collective bargaining

Bellingham Police Department

- Completed a limited pilot program
- Voluntary wear of BWC's began in early 2014
- Made BWCs mandatory for all uniformed patrol officers in 2016

Bothell Police Department

- Recently declined to implement BWC program due to financial cost

Bremerton

- Some officers began voluntarily wearing BWCs in 2011
- 6-week pilot program in 2014

Everett Police Department

- Completed a limited pilot program with 10 officers wearing BWCs for a 6-month trial period (period began December 2019, so it just concluded)
- City budgeted \$400,000 in 2020 for purchase of BWCs

Gig Harbor

- 3 BWCs deployed in 2016

Kent Police Department

- Completed a limited pilot program with 11 officers wearing BWCs for a 6-month trial period
- Now over 100 officers have BWCs

Lake Forest Park

- Certain Lake Forest Park officers have been wearing BWCs off and on since 2010

Mill Creek

- Started with a trial period in 2016
- Officers do not currently wear BWCs, but a BWC proposal will be made to the City Council on September 1, 2020.

Monroe

- Started with a 6-month trial period in 2016 using two BWCs
- As of 2017, they have five BWCs.
- The officers who wear the devices volunteer.

Redmond Police Department

- On June 16, 2020, the City Council declined to implement BWC program due to financial cost

Renton

- Pilot program in 2016
- Per the Renton Police Department policy, the "Renton Police Department may provide members with access to portable recorders, either audio or video or both, for use during the performance of their duties."

Seattle Police Department

- Implemented a pilot BWC program in 2014
- Currently deploy both BWCs and in-car cameras

Spokane Police Department

- Instituted BWCs in 2015 after the Spokane City Council approved the purchase in 2013
- All officers wear BWCs, approximately 230 BWCS deployed daily
- Storage of approximately 137 TB of video on Axon's website evidence.com (over 380,000 BWC videos)

Tacoma Police Department

- Expected to launch BWCs in 2021 and complete implementation in 2022

Tukwila Police Department

- Completed a limited pilot program first with 5 officers wearing BWCs
- Now over 70 officers with BWCs

Vancouver Police Department

- Considering a BWC program (per current timeline on website), but efforts have been paused due to COVID
- Pilot program in 2016

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

Using the DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance Body-Worn Camera Implementation Checklist²¹ as a guide, develop a three-phased project using a hybrid of adaptive and predictive methodologies. An Initiation Phase (outlined below), a Planning and Procurement Phase, and an Execution/Implementation Phase. Deliverables from each phase would be reviewed and

²¹ Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice Body-Worn Camera Toolkit https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/bwc/pdfs/BWCImplementationChecklist.pdf

approved before starting the next stage. The focus of the Initiation Phase would be concept development and feasibility. The estimated timeline for the Initiation Phase is 6-8 months.

Initiation Phase

- Identify initiation phase workgroups
- Identify key project stakeholders
- Plan and implement a community engagement strategy
- Develop an ordinance or resolution proposal for adoption
- Open a dialog with the Kirkland Police Department Guild
- Develop a communication system to inform officers and solicit input
- Perform a feasibility study to determine alignment with organizational strategic goals
- Document and monitor on-going environmental and organizational factors
- Prepare project charter
- Identify project objectives
- Develop project scope
- Research and develop policies for approval
- Identify risks and mitigation strategies
- Continue data collection from similar departments with BWC programs
- Further cost-benefit analysis and identify preliminary funding options
- Product vendor discussions and demonstrations
- Identify training program options
- Phase gate review and approval

The following information is provided as some of the reference material collected by the Department:

WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) – 2017 Report²²

Task Force Concerns and Recommendations

- 1. Purpose of BWCs
 - a. Accountability
 - i. Minimize officer discretion on when to activate/turn off BWC in policy
 - b. Transparency
 - i. Seek community feedback and provide community education prior to implementing a BWC program

²² Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Body Worn Cameras. (2017). Washington State Legislature. http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/Archive/UBWC/Documents/UBWC-FinalRpt.pdf

ii. Provide mechanisms for community questions and feedback during BWC program

c. Evidence

- i. Do not allow BWC manufacturers to use and sell BWC data for potentially unfair purposes; do not contribute to biased input in algorithms [note: Axon intends to automate the function of policing, which could have impacts on future facial recognition software and predictive AI software]
- ii. It may be helpful to have the BWCs default to on, rather than being turned on manually at the officer's discretion
- d. Enhancement to public safety
 - i. Actively seek feedback from impacted communities
 - ii. It would be helpful if there were more concrete statewide rules to promote consistency and trust

2. Privacy

a. Concerns

- i. The body worn cameras may have a disproportionate impact on those with mental illness (can they consent to filming in personal situations?)
- ii. BWCs may be used to target immigrant populations (including data sharing)
- iii. BWCs may put victims at risk for identification, which could lessen incentive to report criminal activity
- iv. Ensure that BWCs do not enable voyeurism or commercialism
- v. BWCs should not be used for general surveillance or private sector

b. Health information

- i. An explicit presumption against disclosure of footage from within a healthcare facility strongly and specifically protects patients and families and provides guidance to law enforcement and those requesting records
- ii. Officers should be careful with BWCs in situations where emergency medical services are being provided on a crime scene

3. Note on WASPC

a. WASPC was a part of this task force. A model policy was proposed by WASPC initially, but WASPC withdrew that policy from consideration prior to voting on recommendations, so that proposal was not included in this task force report.

SPECIFIC BWC STUDIES

University of Cambridge's Institute of Criminology Study (2016)²³

²³ Ariel, B., Sutherland, A., Henstock, D., Young, J., Drover, P., Sykes, J., Megicks, S., & Henderson, R. (2016). "Contagious Accountability." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 44(2), 293–316. https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854816668218

1. What was recorded?

a. Citizen complaints

2. Method

a. The University of Cambridge's Institute of Criminology studied seven police departments from 2014-2015 in the United Kingdom and the United States. The study included over one million officer hours across over 4,000 shifts in jurisdictions that cover a total population of two million residents. Officers were randomly assigned into treatment (wearing BWCs) and control (not wearing BWCs) groups.

3. Results

a. Citizen complaints against the police decreased 93% when police wore BWCs.

4. Additional notes

a. Interestingly, post-test complaints (after the police had worn BWCs for a period and then stopped wearing them) remained lower than the pre-test level of complaints (before police had ever worn BWCs). The authors of the study theorize that this may because the officers were better able to reflect on their actions after seeing the BWC footage, even when they were no longer wearing the BWC.

Rialto, CA study (2012 – one of the earliest major BWC studies)²⁴

1. What was recorded?

- a. Police use of force
- b. Civilian complaints

2. Method

a. Each week, all shifts were randomly assigned to treatment or control

- b. On a treatment shift, all officers had to wear cameras, had to keep the cameras turned on for their whole shift and had to give verbal warnings to anyone they encountered that they were wearing a camera. On control shifts, no one wore cameras
- c. The study then compared those shifts where cameras were being used to those where they weren't

3. Results

a. When officers were wearing cameras on shifts, police use of force against suspects was 50 percent lower.

b. Complaints against the police decreased 90% in the 12 months after the cameras were introduced.

²⁴ How police body cameras can improve behavior, ease tension. (2016, October 21). San Diego Union Tribune. https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/sd-policy-body-cameras-20161021-story.html

- i. Specifically, complaints went from 0.7 complaints per 1,000 contacts without BWCs to 0.07 per 1,000 contacts with BWCs.
- c. When officers used their discretion to turn cameras on and off during their shifts, this was associated with an increased use of force.

4. Additional notes

- a. It cannot be left to the officers to determine the shifts during which they will wear the cameras.
 - This assertion is supported by a 2016 study, which noted that use of force rates were 37% lower when officers had no discretion of when BWCs were turned on, as compared to a 71% increase in use of force rates when officer had full discretion of when to turn on/off BWCs.²⁵
- b. Cameras must stay turned on for the entire shift

<u>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) Study</u> (2019)²⁶

- 1. What was recorded?
 - a. Police use of force
 - b. Civilian complaints
 - c. Policing activity category (traffic tickets, warnings, arrests, etc.)
 - d. Judicial outcomes

2. Method

a. Metro Police of Washington, D.C. had half of their patrol and station officers randomly assigned to wear BWCs, while the other half were not assigned to wear BWCs.

3. Results

a. There were no statistically significant effects of wearing in any of the four categories measured.

4. Additional notes

a. The authors of the study hypothesize that so many nonpolice cameras record incidents in D.C. (and in most large cities) now that BWCs may not make a huge difference, since police often have to assume, they are being filmed whether or not they wear a BWC.

²⁵ Ariel, B., Sutherland, A., Henstock, D. et al. Report: increases in police use of force in the presence of body-worn cameras are driven by officer discretion: a protocol-based subgroup analysis of ten randomized experiments. J Exp Criminol 12, 453–463 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-016-9261-3.

Yokum, D., Ravishankar, A., & Coppock, A. (2019). A randomized control trial evaluating the effects of police body-worn cameras. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(21), 10329–10332. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1814773116

George Mason University's Criminology & Public Policy: Research on BWCs (2019)²⁷

- 1. What was recorded?
 - a. Officer behavior
 - b. Officer perceptions
 - c. Citizen behavior
 - d. Citizen perceptions
 - e. Police investigations
 - f. Police organizations
- 2. Method
 - a. 70 empirical studies of BWCs were examined.
- 3. Results
 - a. Citizen complaints
 - i. Officers who wear BWCs typically have fewer complaints lodged against them.
 - b. Officer use of force
 - i. Mixed findings
 - ii. Study findings do not show definitively that BWCs can reduce officers' use of force.
 - c. Officer decisions to arrest or cite
 - i. Mixed findings
 - d. Officer proactivity
 - i. Wearing BWCs did not have a significant impact on officer levels of proactivity.
 - e. Effect on disparate outcomes
 - i. Not enough data to determine at this point
 - f. Officers' attitudes toward BWCs
 - i. Officers tend to feel more positive about BWCs over time
 - ii. Common concerns about technical difficulties adding time to duties (downloading footage, reviewing footage when writing reports, etc.)
 - g. Citizen compliance
 - i. Mixed findings
 - h. Citizen willingness to call and cooperate with the police
 - i. Not enough data to determine at this point
 - i. Crime deterrence
 - i. BWCs do not appear to have a general deterrent effect.
 - j. Impact of BWCs on specific citizen-police encounters
 - i. Behavior of officer has more effect on citizens' impressions than the presence of a BWC.

²⁷Lum, C., Stoltz, M., Koper, C. S., & Scherer, J. A. (2019). Research on body-worn cameras. *Criminology & Public Policy*, *18*(1), 93–118. https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12412

- k. Citizen attitudes toward BWCs re. privacy and fear
 - i. Not enough data to determine at this point
- I. Impact of BWCs on criminal investigations
 - i. BWCs can have positive investigative effects
 - ii. Particularly useful in DV cases when victim is uncooperative
- m. Effect of BWCs on police organizations
 - i. Training can be improved by using BWC footage for actual examples
- 4. Additional notes
 - a. Consider the community context when implementing BWCs.
 - b. Consider using BWCs internally in training, management, and internal investigations to promote internal systemic improvements throughout the agency.

STATEMENTS FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU²⁸

- 1) Cameras alone do not improve accountability
- 2) A solid BWC program is most important
 - a) Need strong policies and institutional practices
- 3) Cameras should be used to increase transparency and oversight, NOT used to simply increase surveillance
- 4) Filming should start at the beginning of any law enforcement encounter
 - a) Peaceful protests should not be filmed
 - b) A protester arrested at a protest should be filmed. If tear gas is deployed, that should be filmed.
 - c) Test: is officer asserting their authority beyond just standing somewhere on standby? If so, then camera should be on.
- 5) Calls for a presumption against officers in litigation in cases where police should possess BWC footage but don't
- 6) Don't give officers discretion on when to record or release footage

Campaign Zero²⁹

1) BWCs (and dashboard cameras) should be mandatory for police

- 2) Establish BWC policies covering:
 - a) record all interactions with subjects who have not requested to be kept anonymous

²⁸ American Civil Liberties Union. (2020, June 25). *ACLU News & Commentary*. https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/body-cameras-and-the-george-floyd-protests/

²⁹ Body Cams/ Film the Police. (2020). Campaign Zero. https://www.joincampaignzero.org/film-the-police

- b) notify subjects that they have the option to remain anonymous and stop recording/storing footage if they choose this option
- c) allow civilians to review footage of themselves or their relatives and request this be released to the public and stored for at least two years
- d) require body and dash cam footage to be stored externally and ensure district attorneys and civilian oversight structures have access to the footage
- e) require police departments, whenever they want to deny a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for body or dash cam footage, to prove in court that the footage constitutes a legitimate FOIA exemption (Ex: Illinois House Bill 4355)
- f) permanently delete footage after 6 months if this footage hasn't been specifically requested to be stored
- g) include a disciplinary matrix clearly defining consequences for officers who fail to adhere to the agency's body camera policy.
- h) consider whether cameras or mandated footage are tampered with or unavailable as a negative evidentiary factor in administrative and criminal proceedings
- i) prevent officers from reviewing footage of an incident before completing initial reports, statements or interviews about an incident
- j) prohibit footage from being used in tandem with facial recognition software, as fillers in photo arrays, or to create a database or pool of mugshots. (Ex: Baltimore PD Body Cam Policy)
- k) update privacy laws to protect civilians from having video or audio recordings released publicly that do not contain potential evidence in a use-of-force incident, discharge of a weapon or death.

NAACP³⁰

1) The NAACP calls for the use of BWCs for all officers.

Joint statement by Women Leaders of 13 African American Organizations 31

- 1) Require all police officers to wear body cameras.
- 2) Terminate officers who intentionally turn off their cameras.

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³¹ Links, T. (2020, June 10). *Joint Statement by Women Leaders of 13 African-American Organizations*. Links. https://linksinc.org/joint-statement-by-women-leaders-african-american-organizations/

FEDERAL BILL

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020³² (H.R.7120) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in early June 2020. The bill passed in the House in late June 2020 and is now in the Senate. If enacted, the "Federal Police Camera and Accountability Act" section of the bill (Subtitle C, Part 1) would require federal law enforcement officers to wear a body camera. While this bill as currently written would not require city police officers to wear BWCs, this bill is worth noting in case states begin enacting similar bills.

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1. <u>Body camera studies</u>

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 - i. http://leg.wa.gov/JointCommittees/Archive/UBWC/Documents/UBWC-FinalRpt.pdf
- b. DOJ Police Executive Research Forum: Implementing a BWC Program (2014)
 - i. https://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/resources/472014912134715246869.pdf

2. Retention for recordings

- a. WA Office of the Sectary of State retention guidelines
 - i. https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/archives/recordsmanagement/advice-sheet-how-long-do-police-body-cam-recordings-need-to-be-kept-(october-2018).pdf
 - ii. LE09-01-08 Rev. 3
 - iii. LE2016-001 Rev. 1

3. Records disclosures

- a. Washington State RCWs
 - i. RCW 42.56.240
 - ii. https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.56.240
- 4. When must the cameras be activated?
 - a. Washington State RCWs
 - i. RCW 10.109.010
 - ii. RCW 10.109.020
 - iii. https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=10.109&full=true
 - b. Seattle Guidelines
 - i. https://www.kingcounty.gov/~/media/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/documents/pdf/RLSJC/2018/Jan25/BodyWornVideoOne-Pager.ashx?la=en
- 5. When must the cameras not be activated?
 - a. Washington State RCWs
 - i. https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=10.109&full=true
 - ii. RCW 10.109.010
 - iii. RCW 10.109.020

6. What does WA state law say?

- a. Washington State RCWs
 - i. https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=10.109&full=true
 - ii. RCW 10.109.010
 - iii. RCW 10.109.020

7. Which other WA departments use BWCs?

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- e. https://everettwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23248/12-03-19-Body-Worn-Camera-Pilot-Program-PDF
- f. https://mynorthwest.com/801090/tukwila-police-body-cam-solution/?
- g. https://www.cityofvancouver.us/police/page/vancouver-police-body-worn-camera-study
- h. Person to person contact (via phone) with Departments

R-5434 Targeted Stakeholder Engagement - Focus Group Notes

Staff conducted a total of seven focus groups with Black-centered and/or Black-led groups between November 2020 and January 2021 and one focus group with a Latino group in February 2021. Below is a listing of the groups that staff met with for focus groups:

- Eastside Race and Leadership Coalition (ERLC)
- Black Policy Advisory Committee
- Movement of Advocacy for Youth
- Eastside Change Coalition (met twice)
- ERLC -organized student focus group
- Eastside Embrace
- Kirkland Promotores

Total attendance at the above eight meetings was approximately 52.

Below are staff's raw notes from the focus groups related to Body Worn Cameras.

- Whether we need these things or not, get body cams out there, do the hard police reform work.
- There's a desire to focus on other things, but those other things are not what the public is focusing on and the media isn't focusing on either.
- Body camera memo quotes an old 2013 ACLU report that has since been superseded.
 Thinks the ACLU will reach out to the City.
- Worn and on at all times, with ramifications if not done
- Outside body should be able to access that footage community oversight
- PD shouldn't be only ones reviewing their footage that would defeat the purpose
- Outside body can evaluate for use of force policy
- Policy is very clear very clear actions if policy broken then they can serve a great function
- We want body cams as long as they're on at all times
- Clear consequences if not, and third party oversight
- If no to any of the above, then no body cams
- Use the body cams to catch the positive interactions; only showing bad interactions, highlighting Black people as criminals, reinforces the stereotype
- Body cam needs to happen with the identity work first; Having the police see Black people as human and Black people see them as human, that's more important than the camera
- Instead of body cams, rather have security cams in public places
- How does the City gauge success in a pilot program (body cameras)?
- Works only if the review of footage doesn't come directly from the PD.
- Needs to be progressive.
- Worth investing in, but needs independent review.
- Training is needed, not cameras that address the issue after the fact be proactive.
- Body cams for sure!
- It'd be helpful for to go back and check what happened

- Will only work if review of footage isn't within PD; it being in Charlottesville helped; worth investing but would need to be reviewed by outside body to be effective [seconded]
- Makes the most sense to have a third party conducting investigations; PDs are struggling to have more accessible info, so even from that standpoint, having a 3rd party would add validity

