

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

BODY WORN CAMERA USE

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) recognizes the need for a comprehensive community engagement process that offers the community a meaningful opportunity to provide input into CPD policies. Please use the following information to guide your feedback and discussions on the CPD policy related to **Body Worn Camera Use**.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago Consent Decree requires that CPD “will continue to maintain a policy regarding body-worn camera video and audio recording that will require officers to record their law-enforcement related activities” (¶238). In development of the policy on **Body Worn Camera Use**, CPD has researched applicable laws, operational practices from other agencies, available technology, and other published research and analyses.

Current CPD Policy (available publicly at <http://directives.chicagopolice.org>)

- S03-14 “Body Worn Cameras”

CPD is committed to protecting the safety and welfare of the public as well as its members. Audio and visual recordings from the body worn camera (BWC) can improve the quality and reliability of investigations and increase transparency.

All sworn members and their immediate supervisors assigned to a Bureau of Patrol district normally assigned to field duties and any other member at the discretion of the district commander will be assigned and utilize a body worn camera.

Illinois Officer-Worn Body Camera Act (50 ILCS 706/10)

Sec. 10-5. Purpose. The General Assembly recognizes that trust and mutual respect between law enforcement agencies and the communities they protect and serve are essential to effective policing and the integrity of our criminal justice system. The General Assembly recognizes that officer-worn body cameras have developed as a technology that has been used and experimented with by police departments. Officer-worn body cameras will provide state-of-the-art evidence collection and additional opportunities for training and instruction. Further, officer-worn body cameras may provide impartial evidence and documentation to settle disputes and allegations of officer misconduct.

Sec. 10-10 Definitions. "Law enforcement-related encounters or activities" include, but are not limited to, traffic stops, pedestrian stops, arrests, searches, interrogations, investigations, pursuits, crowd control, traffic control, non-community caretaking interactions with an individual while on patrol, or any other instance in which the officer is enforcing the laws of the municipality, county, or State.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

- Purposes of body worn cameras (BWC), including increase officer accountability, improve trust and CPD legitimacy in the community, and augment CPD’s records of law enforcement-related activities.
- Use of body worn cameras in field duties and investigations, both criminal and officer misconduct.
- Supervisory review of camera footage, including field incidents, performance reviews, investigations, and random review for auditing and training opportunities.
- Video release policy and retention of videos.

CPD anticipates gathering and utilizing the feedback provided via the community engagement process to develop a comprehensive policy that is inclusive of and reflects the needs and expectations of both the community and CPD. CPD’s policy development process will also include the public posting of proposed policies for comments on CPD’s website prior to implementation.