

Anchorage Police Department Regulations and Procedures Manual	Operational Procedures 3.10.110	
Policy and Procedure Title Body Worn Cameras	Effective Date TBD	Page 1 of 8
Replaces Prior Policy: N/A	Approved by: Chief Michael Kerle	

This Policy is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This Policy should not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third-party claims. Violations of this Policy will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

3.10.110 Body-Worn Cameras

PURPOSE

To establish departmental guidelines and limitations for the use and management of a body-worn camera system.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Anchorage Police Department that officers shall activate their body-worn camera when such use is appropriate to the proper performance of his or her official duties, where the recordings are consistent with this policy and law. The Anchorage Police Department will utilize the _____ camera system.

DEFINITIONS

Body-Worn Camera System (BWC): A body-worn audio/video recording system primarily consisting of a camera and an internal battery pack.

Digital Evidence Software: A secure video file management system required for downloading, storing, and retrieving video files recorded with the body-worn camera system.

Digital Multimedia Evidence (DME): All digital recordings, including but not limited to audio, video, photographs, and their associated metadata. Metadata includes any digital identifiers that are captured as part of the actual recording, such as date/time, GPS coordinates, labeling, etc.

PROCEDURES

I. PROCEDURES

A. General

This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which a BWC should be used. Sound judgment and discretion shall dictate when a BWC is activated.

The Anchorage Police Department has authorized the use of BWCs. The Department will use the BWC to document events and capture data which will be preserved on a secure server. Once captured, these original recordings cannot be altered in any way. APD has adopted the use of BWCs to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To enhance officer safety.
2. To accurately capture statements and events during an incident.
3. To enhance the accuracy of officer reports and testimony in court.
4. To preserve visual and audio information for use in current and future investigations.
5. To provide an impartial review for self-critique and field evaluation during officer training or coaching and mentoring sessions.
6. To enhance the public's trust by preserving factual representations of officer-citizen interactions in the form of video and audio recordings.

B. Equipment Use

1. BWCs shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and APD training and policies.
2. Use of personally owned recording devices is prohibited.
3. Prior to each shift, officers shall inspect the body-worn camera for any physical damage and to ensure the system is fully charged and operational.
4. Malfunctions, damage, loss, or theft of any part of a BWC shall be immediately reported to a supervisor.
5. Officers shall position the BWC as specified by manufacturer recommendations and APD training.
6. All captured digital recordings shall be uploaded to the digital server daily. The recordings shall be uploaded as specified by APD training.

C. Operational Use

1. Officers in uniform performing patrol or crime suppression duties shall wear a BWC at all times while on-duty. Other sworn officers may be assigned a BWC based on operational needs and are subject to this policy when a BWC is issued to them.
2. While it is generally implied that words and/or actions performed in the presence of a police officer have no expectation of privacy, if asked, the officer will inform the person they are being recorded.
3. Private citizens shall not be allowed to review BWC footage without making a public records request.
4. Officers **shall** record all calls for service or when initiating an encounter with the public, unless otherwise excepted under this policy or it is unsafe, impossible, or impractical to do so, including, but not limited to, the following situations:
 - a. Vehicle and pedestrian investigative detentions and stops;
 - b. Observed unlawful conduct;
 - c. Use of force;
 - d. High-risk situations;
 - e. Advising an individual of Miranda rights;
 - f. Statements made by suspects, victims, or witnesses;
 - g. Vehicle searches;
 - h. K-9 deployments;
 - i. Physical arrest of persons;
 - j. Observed items of evidentiary value;
 - k. Service of a search warrant;
 - l. An encounter initiated by a private person (flag down);
 - m. Any contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would not otherwise require recording;
 - n. Any other circumstances where the officer believes recording an incident would be appropriate.
5. Contacts shall be recorded in their entirety unless a limitation listed below in section D applies.
6. If an officer fails to activate the BWC, fails to record the entire contact, or interrupts the recording, the officer shall document why a recording was not made, was interrupted, or was terminated.

7. If it becomes necessary to discuss issues in private with a supervisor or another officer regarding an encounter or call for service, the officer may turn off their BWC to prevent their private conversation from being recorded. The officer shall document this.
8. Once a body-worn camera is activated, it shall not be intentionally turned off until the incident has reached a conclusion. Additional police officers arriving on a scene that have been issued or assigned a body-worn and dashboard camera shall also record the interaction with the public and shall also continue to record until the completion of the incident. For purposes of this policy, conclusion of an interaction with the public occurs when a police officer terminates his/her law enforcement contact with a member of the public.
9. BWCs do not need to be utilized during custodial interviews when other Department video recording methods are being used. BWCs may be used in place of a digital recorder to document interviews, to include custodial interviews.
10. Officers may discontinue the use of BWCs while investigating sexual assaults, sexual assaults of a minor, and child abuse if the victim, the parent of a minor, or the guardian of a minor requests. For example, the victim requests the video recording is turned off. If the contact is not recorded on a BWC, the officer shall audio record the contact.
11. The use of a BWC does not replace the officer's obligation to document police operations as outlined in the department policy manual.
12. Whenever an officer records an incident or any portion of an incident, which that officer reasonably believes will likely lead to a citizen complaint, the officer shall immediately bring it to the attention of his/her supervisor.
13. In situations requiring a report and/or citation, officers shall document the use of a body-camera in the following manner:
 - a. Within the synopsis and narrative portions of an incident report.
 - b. Within a supplemental report
 - c. As a notation on a citation

D. Limitations on the use of the BWC

1. BWCs shall not be used to record:
 - a. Communication with other police personnel or government employees where facts and circumstances of the case are being discussed unless they are a witness, victim, or suspect in the investigation;
 - b. Communications with attorneys at the Municipal Attorney's Office, Municipal Prosecutor, State District Attorney's Office, State Office of Special Prosecution, and United States Attorney's; or
 - c. Encounters with undercover officers or confidential informants.
2. Officers should minimize recording persons who are naked.
3. Officers should use caution when recording in locations where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Accordingly, when responding to locations such as a locker room, restroom, church worship area, school, mental health facility, or patient care area of a medical facility, officers should minimize the recording of uninvolved people.
4. Officers may discontinue recording in a private residence if a witness, victim, or independent third party requests not to be recorded. Officers may audio record the interview. Officers should be cautious not to record on a BWC areas of a private residence outside the scope of the investigation.
5. Officers should discontinue recording when on break or otherwise engaged in personal activities.
6. Task Force Officers will only use BWCs if assigned by their Federal Agency.
7. BWCs may not be used for personal use and officers may not copy, download, or convert any BWC recordings for personal use, including posting on any type of social media.

E. Reviewing, copying, and deleting recordings

1. Officers may copy recordings for the following reasons:

- a. Traffic court or Administrative Hearing Officer Proceedings;
 - b. Pursuant to a subpoena or other court order; and
 - c. Training purposes, only with approval from the Division Captain.
2. Officers may review or copy recordings, except in the following circumstances:
 - a. When there is an in-custody death;
 - b. When there is a use of deadly force or
 - c. When an employee is the subject of a criminal investigation.
3. BWC footage may be released in accordance with Anchorage Municipal Code 3.90 (Access to Public Records). All requests shall be made to and processed through APD Records.
4. Officers may request deletion of unintentional recordings through their chain of command, and requires approval and documentation up to the Divisional Deputy Chief.

F. Releasing Body-Worn Camera Recordings

1. Body-Worn Camera recordings are public records as defined by the Alaska Public Records Act and shall be released using the statutory and regulatory guidelines of Anchorage Municipal Code 3.90 (Access to Public Records).
2. Body-Worn Camera recordings that are associated with active criminal, civil, or administrative court proceedings, or open criminal investigations should not be released until the court proceedings and/or investigation is closed.
3. The Chief of Police may proactively release Body-Worn Camera recordings associated with officer involved shootings or other critical incidents before an investigation or criminal court proceeding is complete. Criminal investigative interviews with the involved officers, witnesses, and victims should be completed prior to the public release.

G. Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Supervisors or other persons designated by the Chief of Police

may periodically review issued or approved body-worn and dashboard cameras recordings of traffic stops and citizen contacts in accordance with this policy as well as reports generated as a result of these incidents to:

- a. Ensure body-worn and dashboard cameras equipment is operating properly;
 - b. Ensure that police officers are utilizing the body-worn and dashboard cameras appropriately and in accordance with policies and procedures; and
 - c. Identify any areas in which additional training policy revisions or guidance is required.
2. Supervisors must ensure officers are equipped and using BWCs in accordance with this policy.
 3. Supervisors may be asked to secure officers' BWCs immediately following high-profile incidents (e.g. officer-involved shootings) and ensure they are uploaded.

F. Training

1. Only trained personnel are permitted to operate BWCs.
2. The Training Center will maintain all training curriculum related to BWCs.
3. Training Center staff will be given access to BWC footage to prepare training only upon approval of the Division Captain.

G. Safeguarding recordings

1. IT personnel will ensure employees that are no longer authorized to use/view recordings are removed from the system.
2. IT personnel will ensure safeguards are in place to protect against unauthorized use/view of recordings.

H. BWC footage will be retained for the following time period:

1. Non-Crime / Traffic: 2 Years
2. Misdemeanor Crimes: 5 Years

3. Felony Crimes: 10 Years

4. Major Crimes: Indefinitely

If this policy conflicts with the APD Records Retention Schedule, the Records Retention Schedule supersedes the BWC policy.

I. Policy Review

The BWC policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner, at the direction of the Chief of Police.

*****END OF DOCUMENT*****