



Policy 824

Subject	
BODY-WORN CAMERA (BWC)	
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By Order of the Police Commissioner

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLICY 2

CORE PRINCIPLES 2

DEFINITIONS 2

GENERAL 3

DIRECTIVES 4

 Wearing the BWC 4

 Activation of BWC and Notice of BWC Recording 6

 Mandatory Recording 6

 Prohibited Actions and Exceptions to Recordings 9

 Ending a Recording 11

 Uploading, Categorizing, and Titling BWC Data 12

 Review of Recordings 13

REQUIRED ACTIONS 15

 BWC Maintenance and Battery Life 15

 Lost, Stolen, or Malfunctioning BWC 16

 Axon Aware+ Capabilities 17

 Security, Retention, and Disclosure of BWC Data 18

 Deletion of Accidental or Mistaken Recordings 18

 MPIA Requests 19

 BWC Evidence.com Administrator 19

APPENDICES 20

REFERENCED POLICIES 20

RESCISSION 21

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY 21

APPENDIX A 22

APPENDIX B 23

APPENDIX C 24

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish directives and provide guidance for the proper use of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) in order to promote safety, professionalism, transparency, and accountability. This policy establishes a standardized system for creating, retaining, and viewing audio/video recordings made with BWCs during investigative or law enforcement activities and contacts with members of the public.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Professionalism, Transparency, and Accountability. The proper and consistent use of BWCs to document a member's enforcement and investigative activities and contacts with the public promotes member professionalism, enhances member safety, results in greater transparency, contributes to the reporting and investigation of crimes, and assists in the accurate disposition of use of force and misconduct investigations.

Evidence Collection. BWCs are useful tools for recording and preserving evidence, which promotes effective investigations and prosecutions.

Integrity of BWC Recordings. Once BWC footage is captured, a member shall not alter it in any way or view it unless specifically authorized under this policy.

Privacy Protection. BWCs might record extremely sensitive and private data. A breach in BWC data security, careless handling of BWC data and/or intentional release of BWC data to non-authorized individuals could jeopardize relationships with victims, witnesses, and the general public, as well as subject those people to invasions of privacy, endanger their safety, and/or jeopardize prosecutions. Accordingly, members shall take the utmost care and caution to ensure that BWC data is not mishandled or misused. Private residences are not subject to any special privacy interests, and as such, members should record interactions within those residences as directed in this policy.

Balancing of Interests. The BPD must balance privacy and investigative concerns against the need for transparency while complying with relevant public disclosure laws. When not otherwise prohibited by this policy, members are permitted to use their BWC to record in circumstances when they determine that doing so would be beneficial to the public interest. When in doubt, members should record.

DEFINITIONS

Activation — Pressing the “event” button twice to begin recording audio and video with the BWC.

Administrative Investigative Functions — Investigations taking place where no citizen/police interaction is occurring, or likely to occur (e.g., observing Citiwatch cameras, querying computer databases, reviewing reports, conducting covert surveillance, operating in Incident Command Post or Emergency Operation Center, getting a warrant signed in judge's chambers, etc.).

Body-Worn Camera (BWC) — Audio and/or video recording equipment that is affixed to an officer's uniform or equipment with the capability of capturing, recording, and storing information for later viewing.

Buffering Mode — When Powered On, but not Activated, the BWC captures video but not audio. The video is not stored in permanent memory until BWC Activation. Once Activated, the BWC will permanently store video captured prior to BWC Activation and all audio and video captured until Deactivation. Buffering Mode shall automatically record and save at least 60 seconds of video footage immediately prior to the officer activating the record button on the device.

Deactivation — Pressing and holding the “event” button for approximately four seconds to cease audio and video recording. Upon Deactivation, the BWC will enter Buffering Mode.

Livestream — When a member’s camera is Activated and recording, an authorized user may view that BWC footage in real-time via Evidence.com. Members whose BWC footage is being Livestreamed will be notified immediately on the BWC LCD display and through a vibration notification (unless Stealth Mode is enabled).

Powered Off — Turning the BWC off. When Powered Off, the BWC cannot record audio or video, and the BWC is not in Buffering Mode.

Powered On — Turning the BWC on. The BWC will operate in Buffering Mode until Activation or Powering Off.

Routine Administrative Activities — Activity such as report writing, roll call, remote arrest processing, etc., not likely to result in citizen/police interaction or enforcement-related activity.

Stealth Mode — Enabling option to cease LED light, display screen backlight, sounds, and vibration notifications on a member’s BWC.

GENERAL

1. For the purposes of this policy, the term “member” refers to sworn members of BPD unless it appears with qualifiers such as “*professional staff member*” or “*member of the public.*”
2. All members shall be trained on proper utilization of BWCs.
3. BWC data is subject to the rules of discovery, meaning BWC data may be disclosed and obtained as evidence in a trial. In addition, state law permits individuals to request copies of BWC data.
4. All images and sounds recorded by the BWC are the property of the BPD.
5. Members shall only utilize issued BWC devices while on duty.
 - 5.1. The use of a departmental BWC while off-duty is prohibited unless working approved BPD secondary employment that is conditioned on the actual or potential use of law enforcement powers by the member while in BPD uniform (see [Policy 1702, Secondary Employment](#)).
 - 5.2. The use of a non-issued BWC device on duty is prohibited.

6. The Department shall conduct periodic, random reviews and audits of BWC video to assess whether the member's activity was conducted consistent with law and BPD policy as well as member performance, training and equipment needs, and consistency between written reports and recordings.

DIRECTIVES

Wearing the BWC

7. Members of a command rank (captain or above) are not required to wear a BWC.
8. Members who are issued a BWC shall wear their BWC when in uniform in any circumstance where in-person interactions with members of the public would reasonably be anticipated unless:
 - 8.1. While conducting Routine Administrative Activities or Administrative Investigative Functions;
 - 8.2. While performing tasks in which wearing the BWC would be impractical (Dive Team, Physical Fitness Training, Aviation Unit, Facilities Maintenance, etc.) or unsafe (Bomb Techs, HAZMAT responders, etc.); or
 - 8.3. While in a Class "A" (Dress) Uniform (see [Policy 1504, Departmental Uniforms and Equipment](#)).
9. Members shall wear their BWC:
 - 9.1. On the outermost garment, and
 - 9.2. On the front of the body at chest or stomach level so long as it is pointing forward and neither the video or audio are obstructed.

EXCEPTION: Members using a helmet-mounted BWC (e.g. SWAT, mounted) may position the BWC on the front of the helmet.

10. Members issued a BWC are not exempt from wearing a tie when wearing any uniform configuration where a tie is otherwise required. The BWC shall not be mounted in such a way that the tie will obstruct the BWC's field of view.
11. Members shall not intentionally obscure the view of their BWC.
12. The BWC shall not be utilized off-body as a surveillance tool.
13. Members may temporarily remove their BWC and hold it in their hand if necessary to capture evidence or events that would otherwise be obstructed or impossible/impractical to view while worn. This may include holding the BWC in hand and using the app to visually clear an otherwise difficult/unsafe to access area.

14. Members who are physically present in the same room as the BWC may utilize the BWC off-body in an open and obvious manner in a controlled and safe environment, if necessary, to capture an interview, interrogation, or physical evidence such as performance of a drug recognition expert (DRE) evaluation.

Patrol, Enforcement, and Support Units

15. Subject to the exceptions in this policy, members assigned to units whose primary duties involve interactions with citizens and/or enforcement-related activities (e.g., Patrol, SWAT, K-9, WATF, RATT, DAT, etc.) shall wear the BWC at all times while on duty in any circumstance where in-person interactions with members of the public would reasonably be anticipated. This includes while engaged in foot or motorized patrol, even in a stationary position, and attending public functions/meetings.
 - 15.1. Members shall also wear a BWC when directed to wear the BWC by a permanent-rank supervisor, or
 - 15.2. If the unit's standard operating procedures (SOP) requires the member to wear a BWC during the course of their duties or when performing specific functions/actions.

Administrative and Investigative Units

16. Members assigned to units whose primary duties are administrative (e.g., Communications, ECU, Quartermaster, RMS) or investigative (e.g., DDU, Homicide, Pawn Shop, Sex Offense, Child Abuse, etc.) are not required to wear the BWC during the normal course of their duties, unless:
 - 16.1. The member anticipates participating in enforcement activity (e.g., serving an arrest warrant, executing a search warrant, etc.);
 - 16.2. Subject to the exceptions in this policy, the member is on duty and in uniform in any circumstance where in-person interactions with members of the public would reasonably be anticipated (e.g., patrol, parade, baseball game, Artscape, Inner Harbor Detail, uniformed secondary employment, etc.);
 - 16.3. The member is directed to wear the BWC by a permanent-rank supervisor; or
 - 16.4. The unit's standard operating procedures (SOP) requires them to wear a BWC during the course of their duties or when performing specific functions/actions.

Federal Task Force Officers, Undercover Detectives, and Vice Detectives

17. Members deputized as federal task force officers (TFOs) (e.g., ATF, FBI, DEA, etc.) shall adhere to the policies of the agency they are deputized with while conducting task force operations and investigations.

18. Members assigned to support federal agents who are on-scene assisting an operation involving agents from the ATF, FBI, DEA, etc. shall adhere to the policies of the agency they are assisting while fulfilling those obligations.
19. Members who have been authorized to operate in an Undercover or Surveillance capacity as outlined in Policy 1005, *Non-Uniformed Policing Standards*, are exempt from wearing a BWC while operating in either capacity. However, they are still responsible for following all other requirements of Policy 1005 with regard to BWC use and availability.
 - 19.1. Members operating in a Non-Uniformed capacity but not assigned to a Surveillance or Undercover role (e.g. arrest team members, units performing proactive enforcement, etc.) shall wear their BWC in accordance with the “Patrol, Enforcement, and Support Units” section of this policy.

Activation of BWC and Notice of BWC Recording

20. A member shall Activate the BWC as directed by this policy.
 - 20.1. If the member does not Activate their BWC as directed by this policy, they shall document the reason that the BWC was not Activated in an Administrative Report, Form 95, as soon as possible after the incident concludes, and submit the report to the member’s first-line supervisor by the end of the member’s tour of duty.
 - 20.1.1. Upon review, the first-line supervisor shall scan and email the Administrative Report, Form 95, to the BWC Unit at BWC@Baltimorepolice.org.
21. In addition to required procedural justice introductions (name and, if stopped, the reason for stop), members shall inform the individual they are being recorded on BWC, as soon as practicable unless it is unsafe, impractical, or impossible to do so.
 - 21.1. If multiple members are present, introductions and notification of recording can be made by one of the members.
22. Members shall pair their BWC with the Axon mobile application (app) downloaded on their departmental phone.

Mandatory Recording

23. Unless unsafe, impossible, or impractical to do so, all members required to wear a BWC (not just the primary unit) present, dispatched, or otherwise participating in any of the below-listed activities shall Activate their BWC:
 - 23.1. When they begin to respond to any in-progress call or activity likely to require immediate enforcement action (e.g., in-progress or just-occurred armed robbery, armed person, aggravated assault, narcotics, etc.);

- 23.2. For routine, non-emergency service calls—such as reports of auto theft, property damage, Signal 30, and similar incidents—the preferred practice is to Activate their BWC from within the vehicle. However, the BWC shall be Activated no later than briefly after exiting the vehicle. At all times, Activation must begin prior to or at the onset of any interaction with a citizen; and
- 23.3. If exigent circumstances (i.e. Signal 13, imminent danger) prevent a member from immediately Activating their BWC pursuant to #23.1. or #23.2. above, the member shall Activate their BWC as soon as practical.
- 23.3.1. In these circumstances, the member shall document the exigency for the delayed BWC Activation in an Administrative Report, Form 95, as soon as possible after the incident concludes and submit the report to their first-line supervisor by the end of the member’s tour of duty.
- 23.3.1.1. Upon review, the first-line supervisor shall scan and email the Administrative Report, Form 95, to the BWC Unit at BWC@Baltimorepolice.org.
- 23.4. In the event a Voluntary Contact, which does not require BWC recording, becomes a Field Interview, members shall Activate their BWC immediately at the onset of the Interview and until its completion in accordance with [Policy 1112, Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, & Weapons Pat-Downs](#);
- 23.4.1. Members may Deactivate their BWCs where appropriate upon the request of an individual wishing to make a statement per “Deactivation Upon Request for Field Interview” section of this policy below.
- 23.5. If the decision is made to conduct an Investigative Stop (e.g., traffic stop, bicycle stop, or person), the BWC shall be Activated at onset of the observation or activity on which they obtain reasonable suspicion for the attempted Stop and until its completion in accordance with [Policy 1112, Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, & Weapons Pat-Downs](#);
- 23.6. When any encounter with the public becomes confrontational;
- 23.7. When operating a vehicle in Emergency Response Mode (emergency lights and siren activated) as defined in [Policy 1503, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuit](#) or otherwise driving with emergency lights activated (does not apply to high-visibility patrol per Policy 1502, High Visibility Patrol).
- 23.8. At the earliest practical time when the member anticipates that a vehicle pursuit, as defined in [Policy 1503, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuit](#), might be required.
- 23.9. When present with prisoners, arrestees, suspects or any other individuals who are stopped by police, whether primary unit or not;
- 23.10. To capture the duration of a detainee transport, even if the transport vehicle is equipped

with a Transport Vehicle Camera (TVC) System (see [Policy 1114, Persons in Police Custody](#));

- 23.11. To capture when following a medic, tow truck, or other vehicle as part of a continuation for an investigation or call for service.
 - 23.11.1. Members may Deactivate their BWC while waiting for a tow truck, provided they first state on the BWC recording that they are Deactivating while awaiting a tow truck. They shall then Activate the BWC upon the tow truck's arrival for the loading of the vehicle. Deactivation shall be documented in accordance with the "Ending a Recording" section of this policy.
- 23.12. When conducting a search for evidence, including an inventory of a vehicle. This applies to both the member(s) searching and those on scene (see Policy 1007, *Search and Seizure Warrants*, and Policy 1109, *Warrantless Searches*);
- 23.13. When conducting or participating in a firearm inspection, members and their first-line supervisor shall adhere to [Policy 409, Firearms Regulations](#);
- 23.14. Upon responding, as required of supervisors, to the scene to investigate a use of force (see [Policy 725, Use of Force Review and Assessment](#));
- 23.15. During all interactions with an individual wishing to make a complaint (see [Policy 306, Complaint Intake Process](#));
- 23.16. When arriving on scene before attempting to serve an arrest warrant (see [Policy 1104, Arrest Warrants](#));
- 23.17. When arriving on scene to execute a search and seizure warrant (see Policy 1007, *Search and Seizure Warrants*);
- 23.18. As soon as practical when involved in a departmental accident, (unless it is unsafe, impossible, or impractical to do so);
- 23.19. To record custodial interrogations if other departmental audio/video equipment is not Activated or available (see [Policy 1105, Custodial Interrogations](#)); and
- 23.20. When exercising a duty to intervene in accordance with [Policy 319, Duty to Intervene](#).

Strip Searches/Body Cavity Searches

24. For strip searches and body cavity searches, members shall adhere to the BWC mandatory recording requirements, mandatory recording exceptions, and recording prohibitions in [Policy 1013, Strip Searches and Body Cavity Searches](#), and [Policy 1202, Interactions with Youth](#).

Prohibited Actions and Exceptions to Recordings

Deactivation Upon Request for Field Interviews

(Related to Policy 1002, *Securing and Interviewing Witnesses*, and Policy 1112, *Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, and Weapons Pat-Downs*).

25. During a Field Interview, where adult victim(s), witness(es), or other individual(s) wish to make a statement or share information but refuse to do so while being recorded, members:

25.1. **May Deactivate** their BWC:

25.1.1. If the person is an adult, and

25.1.2. The member has conducted a sufficient investigative inquiry to reasonably determine whether the person is a witness or victim and not a suspect in any crime.

25.1.3. If at any point RAS develops that the individual may be a suspect, BWC Deactivation is immediately prohibited, and the member shall Activate their BWC or continue to record. This ensures continuous recording if a witness or victim transitions to a suspect.

25.2. Shall **NOT Deactivate** their BWC:

25.2.1. When the need to continue recording outweighs the risk of losing material information, or even potential material information, from the surrounding environment, or

EXAMPLE: An individual at a chaotic scene says they want the member to Deactivate their BWC so that the individual can provide information to the member. It would be inappropriate to Deactivate because there is a high need to record the activities at the scene.

25.2.2. If Activation is specifically required by this or another policy such as those outlined under the "Mandatory Recording" section of this policy.

26. If the BWC is Deactivated or not Activated under #25, it shall be reported consistent with the "Ending a Recording" section below unless the request was made on camera and is immediately clear prior to Deactivation.

26.1. If the Field Interview began when the BWC was not actively recording, the member may, but is not required to, temporarily Activate the BWC for the sole purpose of documenting the individual's request they not be recorded.

Enforcement Activities and Interactions

27. Members shall not perform enforcement-related functions if their BWC is not functioning absent the need to take immediate action to preserve life. Members shall refer to this policy for guidelines concerning BWC Maintenance and Battery Life.
28. Members are prohibited from Deactivating their BWCs during interactions with youth unless the youth is being interviewed or interrogated in a room equipped with functioning audio/visual equipment. (See Policy 1202, *Interactions with Youth*, and Policy 1207, *Youth Interrogations*.)
29. Members shall not be required to Activate the BWC during contacts with a confidential informant or undercover officer unless another member of the public is present and Activation is required with respect to that individual (for example: during contact with an undercover officer, the member observes a violent felony in progress and moves to interrupt it.).

Detention Facilities, Care Facilities, and Court

30. When entering detention facilities, members shall adhere to the facility's rules concerning BWC protocol. If the member is interacting with a detainee or suspect, the member shall Activate their BWC as soon as permissible by the facility.
31. When inside a medical or mental health facility, members shall be aware of patients' rights to privacy when in hospital settings and make reasonable efforts to minimize:
 - 31.1. Patients during medical or psychological evaluations or treatments.
 - 31.2. Individuals other than the individual(s) of interest or recording medical documents.
32. To avoid capturing sensitive information unnecessarily, members entering a medical or mental health facility shall, if practical, Activate their BWCs just prior to the need to Activate (e.g., meeting with the complainant/victim, responding to the location in the hospital related to the CFS, etc.) and Deactivate their BWC on leaving that location.
 - 32.1. Members may Activate their BWC and keep it Activated where Deactivation is impractical (e.g., the incident is just inside an entrance, there is a call for backup inside the facility, the member is responding to an ongoing incident between two patients, or there are several witnesses/victims in an emergency room and the member would have to constantly Activate/Deactivate their BWC).
33. Members shall not Activate the BWC inside of a courthouse, court room, or hearing room unless taking direct enforcement action such as making an arrest (see [Policy 1811, Court/Administrative Hearing Procedures](#)).

Bomb Threats

34. Members may Power Off their BWC when investigating bomb threats or suspicious packages under the same circumstances where utilization of the BPD radio is prohibited due to concerns that radio transmissions or BWC Bluetooth transmissions could potentially cause a detonation (see Policy 707, *Bomb Threat or Suspicious Package - Call for Service*).
- 34.1. Members shall immediately Power On the BWC when safe to do so.

Personal Intimate Activity

35. Members may Power Off or remove their BWC when a Powered On BWC would otherwise capture a member's personal intimate activity (e.g., restroom or lactation breaks or entering a departmental locker room where other members may be undressed). However, members required to have their BWC Active SHALL reattach and Activate their BWC immediately after leaving the area.

Ending a Recording

36. Once recording with a BWC has been initiated, members shall not end the recording unless:
- 36.1. The event or encounter has fully concluded meaning that no more investigative or enforcement action is anticipated;
- 36.2. The member leaves the scene and is no longer assigned on or involved in the event; or
- 36.3. The member is expressly authorized under this policy to Deactivate or Power Off the BWC.
- 36.4. When in doubt, members shall continue to record the interaction if it is reasonable to do so.
37. Prior to Deactivating the BWC, even when authorized by this policy, the member shall state orally into the BWC the reason for Deactivation where it is not immediately clear.

EXAMPLE: It would not be necessary to explain Deactivation after coding a call and getting into the vehicle to leave. It would be necessary for the member to explain if they Deactivated the BWC to use the restroom while at a crime scene.

- 37.1. Members shall also document the Deactivation in their Field Interview or Incident Reports, if applicable.
38. Unless otherwise specified above, a member who interrupts or terminates a BWC recording in progress shall document the reason that the BWC was interrupted or terminated in an

Administrative Report, Form 95, as soon as possible after the incident concludes, and submit the report to the member's first-line supervisor by the end of the member's tour of duty.

- 38.1. Upon review, the first-line supervisor shall scan and email the Administrative Report, Form 95, to the BWC Unit at BWC@Baltimorepolice.org.

Uploading, Categorizing, and Titling BWC Data

39. The member is responsible for uploading all BWC data by the conclusion of the member's tour of duty with the following information:
- 39.1. The ID fields shall contain the related CC# for the incident. The CC# shall only include the 9-digit CC# (YYMM01234). DO NOT include the district identifier with the CC#. If a field interview report was added to an Incident Report, enter the incident's CC# in the ID field.
- 39.2. The title of the video shall contain any related location(s) and a few words regarding the action(s) taken (e.g. traffic citation, detainee transport, EP, warrant, etc.); and
- 39.3. The category of the video shall indicate the types of incidents (e.g., Accidental, Arrest/Must Appear, Call for Service, Car Stop, Crime Lab, Self-Initiated, Training, Restricted, etc.).
- 39.3.1. If the member ordered a person to stop recording police activity that occurs in the public, the member shall select "Ordered to Stop Recording" as one of the categories. (See [Policy 1016, Public Observations/Recording of Officers](#)).
40. A supervisor not involved in the incident shall take possession of the member's BWC and be responsible for uploading and titling the data under the following circumstances:
- 40.1. If directed by Special Investigations Response Team (SIRT) when they respond to investigate an incident;
- 40.2. If a supervisor completing a use of force review for all members present during an incident of a Level 2 use of force determines that it is necessary (see [Policy 725, Use of Force Reporting, Review, and Assessment](#)); and
- 40.3. Any other time at the discretion of a supervisor not involved in the incident.

Priority Evidence Uploads

NOTE: The Priority Evidence Upload feature allows members to upload an undocked BWC's data from the field via Long-Term Evolution (LTE) technology.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

41. Members may utilize Priority Evidence Upload when:
 - 41.1. There is an immediate, time-sensitive need to review a recording (e.g., following a critical incident such as an officer-involved shooting, active shooter event, etc.);
 - 41.2. There is a specific, articulable reason to upload evidence from the field as opposed to a docked upload; and
 - 41.3. A supervisor ranked Lieutenant or higher has approved the Priority Evidence Upload; or
 - 41.4. Investigators or Detectives determine a compelling need.
42. When safe and practicable to do so, the member shall transport the BWC to a docking station during the Priority Evidence Upload to complete the data upload process as quickly as possible.

Review of Recordings

43. Any sworn or professional staff member, provided it is for law enforcement purposes or other legitimate use and not otherwise prohibited by BPD policy, shall send their requests to receive BWC data to the BWC Unit at BWC@baltimorepolice.org.
44. Where not otherwise prohibited by BPD policy, members may view BWC data from their own assigned BWC, or the BWC of another involved member, to assist in complete and accurate report writing for routine matters.
45. Where not otherwise prohibited by BPD policy, professional staff members with assigned investigative/assessment duties may view BWC data as part of their assigned tasks and duties. For example, professional staff members assigned to the Professional Standards Section tasked with conducting audits may view BWC data related to the completion of those audits.
46. Members who are involved in a Level 3 use of force (see [Policy 710, Level 3 Use of Force Investigations / Special Investigation Response Team](#)) incident, including in-custody death shall not view any BWC recordings related to the incident prior to completing and submitting any required reports and/or being interviewed by the appropriate investigative unit unless:
 - 46.1. The member is in receipt of a declination letter from the prosecuting authority, or the member has been compelled to make a statement and the appropriate Garrity warning has been issued; and
 - 46.2. The recording is viewed at the PID or at a location approved by a PID official while the member is in the presence of the assigned investigator or designee.
47. In addition to the above, members who are officially notified that they are under investigation and have received a Notice to the Accused shall not subsequently view any BWC footage of the incident under investigation. This access restriction shall remain in place throughout the

investigation. Members will be given the opportunity to view the video under the supervision and coordination of a PID official prior to giving a compelled statement.

- 47.1. If a member needs to view the BWC footage, such as to prepare for court testimony in a related criminal case, they should write an Administrative Report, Form 95, and have a supervisor send a signed form to PID.
48. In reviews under #46 and #47, members may only review data from their assigned BWC. The cross-review of additional members' BWC data is prohibited even if said members are involved in the same incident, unless permitted by a PID official.
49. Supervisors may review, clip, download, copy, and/or screenshot BWC data capturing the performance of a member under their command for the purpose of:
 - 49.1. Conducting an investigation (e.g., misconduct, supervisor complaint, vehicle accident, etc.);
 - 49.2. Monitoring a subordinate's professional conduct/performance; or
 - 49.3. Training.
50. A supervisor shall review the BWC data of a member(s) under their supervision when:
 - 50.1. The member or another member is injured or killed during the performance of their duties;
 - 50.2. Reviewing a Level 1 or Level 2 use of force by the recording member or another member in accordance with Policy 725, *Use of Force Reporting, Review, and Assessment*;
 - 50.3. The member is involved in an incident that results in an injury requiring hospitalization or a fatality including, but not limited to, in-custody deaths, crashes, and/or vehicle pursuits; or
 - 50.4. The member has informed the supervisor they believe that the event may result in a complaint.
51. Members and professional staff with assigned investigative/assessment duties may review, download, clip, copy, and/or screenshot BWC data that is relevant to assigned investigations they are conducting.
52. Members of E&T may review, download, clip, copy, and/or screenshot BWC data from any member's BWC for the purpose of training, training review, and compliance review.
53. For #51 and #52, when collecting (e.g. download, clip, copy, and/or screenshot) BWC data, the authorized members and professional staff shall store the data in secure files and systems.
54. BWC recordings of constitutionally protected activity shall not be used to identify individuals present at the activity who are not otherwise suspected of being engaged in illegal activity.

55. Members and professional staff shall not:
- 55.1. Use BWC data to create a database or pool of mug shots;
 - 55.2. Use BWC data as fillers in photo arrays; or
 - 55.3. Search BWC data using facial or voice recognition software.

NOTE: This subsection does not prohibit the BPD from using facial recognition software to analyze the recording of a specific incident when a supervisory member has reason to believe that a specific suspect, witness, or individual in need of assistance was recorded.

Prohibitions to Reviewing Recordings

56. Members are prohibited from sharing BWC data with non-BPD employees who are not permitted access.
57. Members are prohibited from sharing BWC data with other BPD employees (sworn and professional staff) if the data is not directly related to assigned duties and tasks of the other BPD staff member. For example, members may share BWC data of an use of force incident if the staff member's assigned task is to review that incident.
58. Members and professional staff shall not:
- 58.1. Access, obtain, attempt to obtain, or copy/convert for their personal use any recording produced by a BWC;
 - 58.2. Upload BWC data to public and/or social media websites;
 - 58.3. Making a copy of BWC data by using another recording device, such as a cell phone.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

BWC Maintenance and Battery Life

59. Members shall Power On and examine the BWC for function and battery life to ensure the BWC is in working order and the battery is fully charged in accordance with training prior to beginning each shift.
60. Members shall routinely monitor the battery level and status of the BWC through the LCD display on the top of the camera during their tour of duty (see Appendix C, Display Icon Legend). The battery level can also be viewed via the paired mobile device.

- 60.1. If the status bar indicates that a battery is below 33%, members should charge the BWC as soon as feasible.
 - 60.1.1. Members may temporarily remove their BWC when the status bar indicates that the battery is below 33% and charge the BWC in their vehicle, unless it would be inappropriate to do so (e.g., actively responding to a call for service or in a location where immediate action may be necessary).
 - 60.1.2. Outside of a secure location, members may only remove their BWC if it can be quickly reattached in the event action is required
- 60.2. If the battery status bar is critically low (below 10%), members shall:
 - 60.2.1. Notify their supervisor;
 - 60.2.2. Charge the BWC immediately or respond to the Information Technology Division (ITD) or the Evidence Management Unit (EMU) to be issued a replacement (see *Lost, Stolen, or Malfunctioning BWC* below); and
 - 60.2.3. NOT perform enforcement-related functions if their BWC is critically low absent the need to take immediate action to preserve life.
61. During extended periods where BWC Activation is not anticipated (e.g., arrest processing, report writing, etc.), members should charge their BWC.

Lost, Stolen, or Malfunctioning BWC

62. When a member learns that their BWC is lost, stolen or malfunctioning, the member shall:
 - 62.1. Immediately report the lost, stolen, or malfunctioning BWC to a supervisor in writing, via an Administrative Report, Form 95;
 - 62.2. Have their supervisor sign Form 95; and
 - 62.3. With the Form 95, respond to the Information Technology Division (ITD) Monday-Friday, 0700 hrs. to 2300 hrs. or EMU after ITD hours or if ITD is not available to issue a replacement BWC.
 - 62.4. Members shall not dismantle, tamper with, or attempt to repair any hardware/software component of the BWC.
63. Supervisors shall immediately scan/email the Administrative Report, Form 95, to the BWC Unit at BWC@Baltimorepolice.org.

Axon Aware+ Capabilities

Livestream

64. A member's BWC may Livestream a recording via Evidence.com in order to be viewed by assigned personnel in real-time. Only authorized users designated by the BWC Evidence.com Administrator shall utilize the Livestream feature. The BWC Evidence.com Administrator shall assign Livestream permissions to supervisory personnel as well as any other members with an operational need.
- 64.1. Supervisors may Livestream BWC footage in order to assist a member, to deploy additional resources, or to check for compliance. Instances where a supervisor may Livestream a BWC include, but are not limited to:
- 64.1.2. An ongoing critical incident (e.g., firearms discharge, CEW deployment, Signal 13, or vehicle pursuit);
- 64.1.3. Active shooter situations;
- 64.1.4. A hostage/barricade situation; or
- 64.1.5. At a member's request.
- 44.2 While the Livestream feature is a tool for supervisors to assist members, its use shall not preclude the responsibilities of supervisors and the Communications Section to respond to an incident and/or notify additional resources as required in BPD policy.
65. Supervisors shall not Livestream the BWC of another member for purposes not related to operational necessity or compliance reviews.

NOTE: The details of all access to the Livestream feature are automatically recorded in the Audit Log of any corresponding BWC recording(s).

GPS Functionality

NOTE: A member's BWC includes GPS functionality, which is stored and also available in real time upon BWC Activation. The location will be visible on a map and available for authorized users when the BWC is Activated. (See Policy 1605, *Location Services*).

66. Supervisors may review the GPS data in real-time from a subordinate's BWC.

Security, Retention, and Disclosure of BWC Data

67. The BPD shall retain an unedited original version of BWC data for a minimum period of four years. Sworn and professional members shall not tamper with or edit this original version unless authorized per this policy.
68. Sworn and professional members shall document their reason for viewing BWC in the comment box.
69. If the BWC incident results in a notice of claim, civil litigation, PID investigation, or monitor investigation, the footage should be retained for at least one year following the conclusion of the matter, including appeals.
70. Access to BWC data shall be controlled securely through Evidence.com.
71. Access to BWC data shall not be shared with any member of the media unless authorized by the Police Commissioner or their designee.
72. Unless specifically authorized under this policy, members shall not:
 - 72.1. Share any BWC login credentials with any other individual;
 - 72.2. Access, copy, release, or share BWC data:
 - 72.2.1. For non-law enforcement purposes, unless directed by the Police Commissioner, or designee; OR
 - 72.2.2. On any computer or device not controlled or provided by the BPD.
 - 72.3. Tamper with or edit original BWC recordings before the four-year retention period is complete.

Deletion of Accidental or Mistaken Recordings

73. In the event of an accidental or mistaken Activation of the BWC where the resulting recording has no investigative or evidentiary value, members may submit a Body Worn Camera Recording Deletion Request, Form 372, (Appendix B) to their immediate supervisor for approval/disapproval.
 - 73.1. Approved requests shall be forwarded to BWC@baltimorepolice.org.
74. Supervisors shall review the requests for deletion to ensure the recording has no evidentiary value and that it does not depict policy violations or misconduct. Deletion requests of footage that depicts policy violations or misconduct shall not be approved. If the supervisor approves, they are to sign Form 372 and return it to the member.

75. Upon receipt of an approved Form 372, the BWC Unit supervisor shall review the recording and determine whether or not the recording had an official purpose or evidentiary value or if it depicts policy violations or misconduct.
- 75.1. Deleting footage exposes the BPD to accusations of tampering. Therefore, requests for deletion of BWC footage shall only be made in instances of unintentional Activation of the BWC during non-enforcement or non-investigative activities (e.g., in the restroom or locker room). Footage that raises privacy concerns (e.g., undercover officer, or filming in a private home or in a hospital) shall be retained, tagged, and obscured should it need to be viewed.
- 75.2. Deletion requests of footage that depicts policy violations or misconduct shall not be approved.
76. If the BWC Unit supervisor concurs that the recording has no evidentiary value and does not depict policy violations or misconduct, the BWC Unit supervisor shall sign and forward Form 372 to the Commander of the Performance Standards Section (PSS) for review and signature.
- 76.1. If the recording depicts sensitive material (e.g., “Personal Intimate Activities” such as restroom breaks), the BWC Unit supervisor shall also place the video in “restricted” status until a decision is made.
77. If the PSS Commander approves, they shall send Form 372 to the Chiefs of PID and the Compliance Division for review and approval.
78. If the Chiefs of PID and the Compliance Division approve the request, the Compliance Division Chief will forward Form 372 to the Chief, ITD, to assign to the BWC Evidence.com Administrator for deletion and to the BWC Unit supervisor for filing.
79. A copy of the Body Worn Camera Recording Deletion Request, Form 372, with the appropriate signatures, shall be maintained by the BWC Unit.

MPIA Requests

80. Members of the public may request to obtain BWC footage by completing a Baltimore Police Department MPIA Request Form, Form 375, (see Appendix A) and submitting the form to the Document Control Unit at DCU@baltimorepolice.org.
81. Requests for BWC footage shall be granted or denied by the DCU based upon the Maryland Code, General Provisions § 4-351 (a)(b) (see Policy 603, *Document Compliance Unit*).

BWC Evidence.com Administrator

82. The BWC Evidence.com Administrator shall be assigned to an Information Technology Division (ITD) Senior System Administrator. The Administrator is responsible for:

- 82.1. Overall administration of Evidence.com;
- 82.2. Granting member access to Evidence.com;
- 82.3. Ensuring ITD Service Desk Personnel are properly trained in providing basic technical support;
- 82.4. Provide advance technical support in the administration of Evidence.com and BWC footage;
- 82.5. Arrange for BWC equipment repairs;
- 82.6. Deleting footage approved through protocols set forth under Deletion of Accidental or Mistaken Recordings and tracking those requests;
- 82.7. Responding to requests for footage; and
- 82.8. Tracking and maintaining records and requests regarding MPIA requests, deletion requests, and reports of lost, stolen, or malfunctioning BWCs

APPENDICES

- A. Video Retrieval Request, Form 375
- B. Body Worn Camera Recording Deletion Request, Form 372
- C. Display Icon Legend

REFERENCED POLICIES

- Policy 306, *Complaint Intake Process*
- Policy 319, *Duty to Intervene*
- Policy 409, *Firearms Regulations*
- Policy 603, *Document Compliance Unit*
- Policy 707, *Bomb Threat or Suspicious Package – Call for Service*
- Policy 710, *Level 3 Use of Force Investigations / Special Investigation Response Team*
- Policy 725, *Use of Force Review and Assessment*
- Policy 1002, *Securing and Interviewing Witnesses*
- Policy 1013, *Strip Searches and Body Cavity Searches*
- Policy 1016, *Public Observation/Recording of Officers*
- Policy 1104, *Arrest Warrants*
- Policy 1105, *Custodial Interrogations*
- Policy 1112, *Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, & Weapons Pat-Downs*
- Policy 1114, *Persons in Police Custody*
- Policy 1503, *Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuit Policy*
- Policy 1504, *Departmental Uniforms and Equipment*
- Policy 1605, *Location Services*
- Policy 1702, *Secondary Employment*
- Policy 1811, *Court/Administrative Hearing Procedures*

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

RESCISSION

Rescind Policy 824, *Body-Worn Camera*, dated 17 June 2025.


COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.


APPENDIX A

Video Retrieval Request, Form 375

Form 375



BODY WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE REQUEST FORM



PLEASE NOTE: Based on the information provided, the Body Worn Camera (BWC) Coordinator or Administrator will search for the video that is responsive to your described incident and the Document Compliance Unit within BPD Legal Affairs will make an independent determination on a case-by-case basis as to the release of any footage requested. The Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article ("GP"), § 4-101, et seq. governs this request for BWC footage.

BPD will contact you regarding the estimated search, preparation, and production fees, if any, prior to processing your request.

Please return the completed form either by email to DCU@baltimorepolice.org or by mail to Baltimore Police Department/Office of Legal Affairs, c/o Document Compliance Unit, 242 W. 29th Street Baltimore, MD 21211.

Date:

REQUESTER INFORMATION

First Name: Last Name:

Phone Number: Email Address:

INCIDENT DETAILS

Case Name/Client Name (If applicable):

Subject:

Police Report Number (CC#) or CAD#:

Location of Incident: Date & Timeframe:

Officer's Name: Officer's Sequence Number:

Detailed Description of Incident:

Form 374 – Created 3/31/2025

APPENDIX B

Body Worn Camera Recording Deletion Request, Form 372

Body Worn Camera
Recording Deletion
Request Form 372

Baltimore Police Department
Baltimore, Maryland

**BODY WORN CAMERA
RECORDING DELETION REQUEST**

Requesting Member (Print Last, First Name)		Rank	Sequence#
Assignment	Today's Date	Time	Signature

INCIDENT

Involved Member	Sequence #	Date
Time (approximate)	Location	Video Tag:

Please describe the footage and articulate your reason for the Deletion Request:

Member's Immediate Supervisor (Print Last, First Name)		Rank	Sequence#
Date	Time	Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature

Body Worn Camera Coordinator's Determination

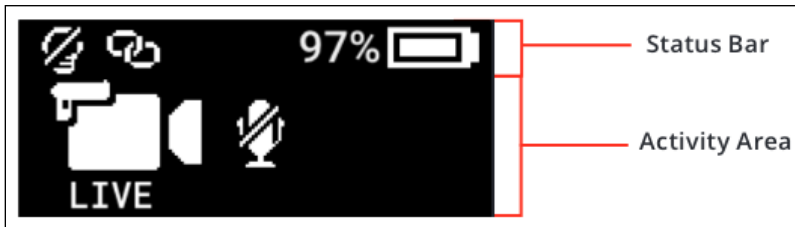
I, _____ (Print Last, First Name), after reviewing the above mentioned Body Worn Camera footage, deem the footage to be of: **Evidentiary Value / No Value** (circle one). Based on my finding, said video footage will be **Retained / Deleted** (circle one).

Additional Remarks:

Signature/Sequence #/Date/Time

APPENDIX C

Display Icon Legend



Activity Area Icon	Description
READY	Ready (buffering) mode
	Recording
	Recording started by Axon Signal
	Axon Aware Live Streaming
	Recording started by gunshot detection
	Microphone off

Status Bar Icons in the field	Description
58%	Battery capacity
	Camera paired
	Lights off
S	Stealth mode on
!	Battery low warning (appears at the right of battery capacity)