



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: November 12, 2024
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Meeting Date: November 26, 2024

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager Finance and Supply Chain Management
SUBJECT: Report Back to Council with Information Relating to the Implementation of Body Worn Cameras for the Vancouver Police Department

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the Vancouver Police Department's 'Body Worn Camera Program Evaluation Report' for information.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The Vancouver Police Department has produced a report evaluating the department's pilot implementation of Body Worn Cameras. As per Council's direction in December 2022, the Body Worn Camera Evaluation Report is being shared with Council for information.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

On December 7, 2022, Council passed a motion formally supporting and taking steps to enable the implementation of a Body Worn Camera program that will equip all front-line and patrol officers by 2025. Council also directed the City staff to work with the VPD and other relevant partners and stakeholders to identify the costs to implement and sustain a Body Worn Camera program for all VPD front-line and patrol officers by 2025.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Discussion

The Vancouver Police Department's 'Body Worn Camera Evaluation Report', attached as Appendix A, provides necessary information on implementing and sustaining a Body Worn Camera program. The report discusses the findings of the Body Worn Camera Pilot Program,

public opinion, internal surveys as well as costs, funding options and opportunities to implement and sustain the program.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of the various options and recommendations relating to the implementation of the Body Worn Camera program are discussed in the Vancouver Police Department's Body Worn Camera Evaluation Report, attached to this report as Appendix A.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report's recommendations.

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Vancouver Police Department Body Worn Camera Pilot Program Evaluation

October 21, 2024



The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) acknowledges that it proudly serves the public on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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Executive Summary

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has been exploring the use of body worn cameras (BWCs) since 2009 and has conducted scans across Canadian and American police agencies to determine the benefits and challenges of BWCs regarding technology, equipment, and implementation. In 2013, the Vancouver Police Board (VPB) was provided with a report from the VPD detailing the benefits of BWCs, and associated considerations around device use and management.

During an in-camera budget discussion on October 20, 2022, in anticipation of a Council Members' Motion supporting the VPD's implementation of a BWC program, the VPB approved for staff to establish a committee and project leadership team, to implement BWCs. On December 7, 2022, Vancouver City Council (Council) passed the motion supporting the implementation of a BWC program. As per the motion, Mayor Ken Sim drafted a letter to then VPB Vice-Chair Faye Wightman requesting VPD implement a BWC program, dated December 21, 2022. Following this, Council provided an additional \$200,000 to VPD's 2023 budget to start the BWC pilot program. An additional \$307,000 was allocated in 2024, bringing the total funding to \$507,000.

After the VPB approved the implementation of a BWC pilot program to assess the costs of establishing and maintaining such a program, the VPD formed a BWC Working Group. The working group, led by a project management team comprised of Superintendent Howard Tran, Inspector Andrea Anderson and Project Manager Victor Quan, launched a pilot program equipping 100 uniformed members with BWCs. This included 70 patrol officers, 23 traffic enforcement officers, and seven other operational members, such as duty officers. The evaluation period for the BWC pilot program officially began on January 4, 2024; after the initial members completed their training and received their cameras, and it continued until June 30, 2024.

The project management team worked closely with the Vancouver Police Union (VPU) to address and resolve issues related to the use of BWCs. The VPU had two members on the BWC Working Group and played a crucial role in identifying pilot participants. The VPU agreed to the pilot program, evaluation framework, and the pilot program guidelines, which they helped shape.

In preparation for, and during the pilot program, the VPD sought feedback from the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner (OIPC), VPD advisory committees, the three Host Nations, partner agencies (e.g., such as Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Ambulance Service, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services), community groups, and the public. Additionally, two virtual town halls were held for the public. All community groups and partner agencies expressed their support for the pilot program and the use of BWCs.

To assess public support for BWCs, the VPD conducted a survey from January 12 to June 30, 2024. The survey was available on the VPD's BWC website and was promoted through VPD social media channels to maximize reach. Out of 705 respondents, 88% supported the VPD operating a BWC program.

Internal surveys revealed that 73% of operational members supported a BWC program. Among those who participated in the pilot program, 92% were in favor of continuing the BWC program.

Body-worn cameras were allocated to two primary areas: Patrol Districts One and Two, and the Traffic Enforcement Section. These members collectively recorded 6,211 videos, amounting to 63,311 minutes (1,055 hours) of footage.

The average length of video varied depending on the use case. Videos have been categorized into three categories:

- Ticket related video (Tickets);
- Police report related video (GO reports); and,
- Call for service related video (CAD calls).

During the evaluation period, 155 Reports to Crown Counsel (RTCCs) containing BWC evidence were submitted for charge approval. These reports included 224 videos, totaling around 5,650 minutes (94 hours and 10 minutes) of footage.

Based on the findings in this report, the VPD recommends expanding the BWC program to all frontline members. There are three options for this expansion:

- **Option One:** Deploy 812 personally assigned BWCs to frontline members;
- **Option Two:** Deploy 812 personally assigned BWCs to frontline members, plus an additional 169 BWCs available to investigative and administrative members for use during callouts and warrant executions. This would be a hybrid model utilizing both personally assigned cameras and pooled cameras;
- **Option Three:** Deploy 539 BWCs to 812 frontline members using a pooled BWC model.

If approved by the VPB and Council, the VPD will begin implementing a BWC program for all operational members. This will involve developing an implementation and change management plan to communicate the program both publicly and internally.

To sustain the BWC program, a dedicated BWC Section comprising of sworn and civilian professionals will be established. This team will provide technical and administrative support, particularly for the disclosure of video evidence created by BWCs. Additional costs will be incurred to increase staffing levels for audio transcription clerks, crown liaison clerks, and clerks to process freedom of information requests.

Table 1 – BWC Program Costing – \$ in millions

Total Cost of BWC Program	2025	2026	2027
Option 1	\$6.10	\$4.72	\$4.87
Option 2	\$6.57	\$5.11	\$5.26
Option 3	\$6.51	\$4.91	\$4.88

The VPD’s BWC pilot program was a success, providing valuable insights into how BWCs can function within the department. Public support for the program is strong, with 88% of survey respondents in favor of it. Internally, 73% of operational members support the program, with this figure rising to 92% among those who participated in the pilot program.

Moving forward, the VPU will continue to be engaged and if BWCs are approved and funded for all frontline officers, the project management team will continue to work with the VPU to address any outstanding issues surrounding BWCs and the collective agreement.

With ample information from the pilot program, the VPD is ready to proceed with a full rollout of BWCs for all operational members, pending funding from Council. This program aims to enhance trust, accountability, and safety for both the public and VPD officers.

Body Worn Camera Pilot Program Background

Body-worn cameras have become a crucial tool for law enforcement. They were first introduced in the United Kingdom in 2005 and have since been adopted by police agencies around the world, including in Canada. These devices are designed to record video and audio of police interactions with the public, aiming to increase transparency and accountability.

The VPD has been proactive in exploring the use of BWCs since 2009. The VPD conducted extensive research, looking into the experiences of other police agencies in Canada and the United States to understand the benefits and challenges associated with BWCs.

In 2013, the VPD presented a report to the VPB outlining the potential advantages of BWCs, such as enhanced transparency and accountability, as well as the considerations around their use and management. However, the decision was made not to proceed with BWCs at that time due to significant concerns about the high costs of cloud data storage and the limitations of the technology, including issues with battery life and video quality.

In July 2019, the *British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards (BCPPS) 4.2.1 Body Worn Cameras*¹ came into effect, setting the standard for public safety agencies in British Columbia incorporating BWCs and developing BWC policies.

In July 2021, VPD Chief Constable Adam Palmer recommended to the *BC Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act*² that BWCs be mandated province wide as part of a provincial policing standard, and that the deployment of BWCs would strengthen public trust and confidence.

In October 20, 2022, in anticipation of a Council Members' Motion supporting the VPD's implementation of a BWC program, the VPB (during an in-camera meeting) approved for staff to establish a committee and project leadership team, to implement BWCs.

In December 2022, Council submitted a letter to the VPD supporting a BWC program, and Council consequently approved \$200,000 in 2023 to commence a pilot program and then an additional \$307,000 in 2024 for total funding of \$507,000. This letter included the following key points:

- a BWC program would align with the BCPPS to ensure province wide consistency in guiding police agencies on BWC implementation;
- a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) relating to the implementation of a BWC program would be completed; and,
- Council would work with the VPD and key interested parties to determine the costs to implement and sustain a BWC program for all VPD frontline officers by 2025.

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/standards/4-2-1-body-worn-cameras-equipment.pdf>

² <https://www.leg.bc.ca/hansard-content/Committees/42nd2nd/rpa/20210727am-PoliceActReform-Virtual-n32.html>

Literature Review

In December 2023, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) published their ten-year follow-up report on BWCs. PERF is an independent research organization founded in 1975. It identifies best practices in fundamental policing issues including reducing the use of force, developing community policing programs, and the use of technology in policing. In addition to publishing research papers on various topics, PERF conducts management studies of police agencies and trains hundreds of police executives annually.

The 2023 report, titled “*Body Worn Cameras a Decade Later: What we Know Now*” summarizes previous policy recommendations and academic research findings regarding the use of BWC by police. The research examined complaints, use of force, perceptions of police, evidentiary value, and implications of camera activation policies.

Complaints: Research consistently finds officers who are equipped with a BWC have fewer complaints than those who do not wear the technology. However, it is not yet clear whether this is due to officers changing their behaviour when they wear a BWC or if the officers face fewer unfounded complaints³.

Use of Force: Studies on the impact of BWCs and use of force are mixed. Roughly half of the rigorous studies with randomized controls have found officers equipped with a BWC tend to use force less frequently while the other half found no statistical difference in use of force. The differing results may be due to any number of factors including camera activation criteria and the baseline levels of use of force. It is expected that those agencies with higher levels of use of force may have greater reductions in use of force once BWCs are implemented⁴.

Perception of Police: The available empirical evidence suggests that there is widespread public support for BWC use by police agencies, including a preference to interact with officers using a BWC. However, there appears to be a confounding effect where this support is dependent on the overall feelings towards the police. Those who have had prior negative feelings with police are more likely to be sceptical about BWC usage. Unsurprisingly, there is strong evidence that the public’s perception of police is affected more by the interaction with officers rather than whether the officer was wearing a BWC or not⁵.

Evidentiary Value: There have been few studies examining the evidentiary value of BWCs. Initial findings suggest that there may be some value in cases where victims are reluctant to cooperate, such as in instances of intimate partner violence. Additionally, there is evidence to suggest that cases may be concluded more quickly when BWC footage is available⁶.

Implications of Camera Activation Policies: Research has shown that when officers are granted greater discretion on when to activate their BWCs they will exercise their discretion and activate cameras less frequently. There is also evidence to suggest that they will also utilize force more often⁷.

³ <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCdecadelater.pdf> pg. 11

⁴ <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCdecadelater.pdf> pg.10

⁵ <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCdecadelater.pdf> pp. 11-12

⁶ <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCdecadelater.pdf> pg. 12

⁷ <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCdecadelater.pdf> pg. 13

Public Consultation

The VPD took a comprehensive approach to gathering feedback and input from various community groups and stakeholders during the lead-up to and throughout the BWC pilot program evaluation period. The project leadership team engaged with the community through 17 in-person meetings and two virtual town halls between October 2023 and January 2024. A complete list of agencies and groups that attended the meetings can be found in [Appendix A](#). These consultations allowed the VPD to share the draft guidelines for the BWC pilot program and inform participants about the program's scope and mandate. The broad support from all groups, including representatives from the three Host Nations, was a positive indicator of the community's trust and approval of the initiative.

The VPD provided multiple avenues for members of the general public to provide feedback and ask questions regarding the BWC pilot program. By creating a dedicated BWC website in October 2023, VPD provided a centralized resource for information about the pilot program, including BWC pilot program guidelines and frequently asked questions (FAQ). This website was continuously updated based on public inquiries, ensuring that the information remained relevant and comprehensive. Additionally, the VPD set up an email in November 2023, allowing the public to ask questions directly. This feedback was used to update the FAQ section and to release additional information via VPD's social media platforms, further enhancing communication and accessibility.

Deputy Chief Constable Howard Chow's press conference on January 4, 2024, marked a significant moment for the VPD as they began deploying BWCs. DCC Chow stated that the use of BWCs was, "... about trust, confidence, and continuing to deliver the best service to the people of Vancouver."⁸

Body Worn Camera Pilot Guidelines Development

The development of VPD's BWC pilot program guidelines in May 2023 was a thorough and collaborative process. By researching policies from other police agencies and adhering to best practices from national organizations like the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), the VPD ensured that their guidelines were comprehensive and well-informed.

Internally, the guidelines were reviewed by the BWC Committee and various subject matter experts, including those with expertise in forensics, information technology, investigations, and operations. This collaborative approach helped to create guidelines that were practical and effective within the VPD's workflow.

The timing of this work coincided with the release of jury recommendations from the coroner's inquest into the 2015 death of Myles Gray. One of the recommendations specifically addressed the implementation of BWCs, highlighting the importance of this technology in enhancing transparency and accountability:

*To expedite the implementation of the use of body worn cameras (with audio recording capabilities) for all patrol officers.*⁹

⁸ <https://vpd.ca/news/2024/01/04/vancouver-police-launches-body-cam-trial-today/>

⁹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/inquest/2023/bccs_gray_verdict_with_coroner_comments.pdf pg. 11

British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards

Section 4.2.1 of the BCPPS outlines the following criteria must be addressed prior to allowing members to deploy with BWCs:

- *Privacy Impact Assessment* – must be completed and approved;
- *Public Notification* – program information available on the police service’s website;
- *Training* – users receive orientation and training on BWCs prior to deployment;
- *Indiscriminate Use Not Permitted* – BWCs should not be used in automatic recording or continuous recording modes;
- *Mandatory Recordings* – must record situations where there is a reasonable belief use of force will be used, or where violent or aggressive behaviour is anticipated or displayed;
- *Activating BWC* – BWCs must be left activated until the conclusion of an incident (unless exigent circumstances exist) and BWC video cannot be deleted;
- *Notifications* – persons should be informed when they are being recorded via BWC unless it is unsafe to do so;
- *Documentation* – when a member fails to record an incident that should have been recorded, or switches the BWC to buffering mode before the incident is concluded, the member must articulate and document the reasons as soon as practicable, but within 12 hours after the end of their shift. Members must not rely on BWC video to replace notes and reports;
- *Security and Access to Video* – BWC video cannot be altered, and viewing is restricted to investigative, training, and audit purposes; and,
- *Policies and Procedures* – BWC policies must be consistent with the BCPPS.

External Agencies

The VPD conducted a thorough review of policies from 14 Canadian and eight United States police agencies during the development of the BWC guidelines. This extensive review included the Delta Police Department’s policy, which is notable as the only other British Columbia agency to have completed a PIA and published a BWC policy.

Additionally, the VPD’s guidelines were informed by materials from both the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) *Body Worn Camera Policy Framework*¹⁰; and the BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) template policy and Standard Operations Procedures (SOP) template. This ensured that the guidelines were grounded in best practices and aligned with the standards set by these national and provincial organizations.

Guideline Content

As specified in the VPD’s BWC guidelines, the purpose of the BWC pilot program is to:

“Determine the value and effectiveness of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) to:

- strengthen public safety and the well-being of the community;
- enhance transparency and trust between the community, employees and partner agencies;
- enhance accountability for both VPD members and the public; and,

¹⁰https://www.cacp.ca/Library/resources/202109011406171664275977_cacpbodyworncamerapolicyframeworkfebruary2021.pdf

- provide accurate and improved evidence collection for investigations.”

The guideline’s scope was defined as:

BWCs are audio and video recording devices that document police members’ interactions with the public during the course of their duties. They are intended to capture specific police interactions with the public, not for indiscriminate recording. The use of BWCs requires balancing the anticipated value of the program with the privacy rights of individuals, including VPD employees.

The BWC guidelines created by the VPD included provisions for:

- Training requirements;
- BWC deployment;
- Notification of recording;
- Activation and deactivation criteria;
- Post deployment actions;
- BWC viewing;
- Explicitly prohibited activities;
- Privacy considerations; and,
- Provincial audit compliance.

Some key areas covered in the guidelines include:

- people being recorded must be notified that the camera is on, when it is safe to do so;
- the camera must be activated if there is a reasonable belief that there will be a use of force, or if violent or aggressive behaviour is being anticipated or displayed;
- members shall only record for law enforcement purposes and shall not indiscriminately record routine interactions with the public;
- members must not deliberately cover the BWC while it is activated;
- recordings must not be deleted or altered;
- members should exercise discretion and consider not recording in private residences, law offices, places of worship, or when private body areas are exposed or when children are present; and,
- recordings will be kept for 13 months.

A full copy of the BWC guidelines can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Privacy Impact Assessment

As required by Provincial legislation, the draft BWC guidelines and a PIA were submitted to the OIPC who provided the following endorsement:

“Overall, we do not have any concerns with regards to this PIA or the operational guidelines. Both documents appear to be very well written and very well researched. It is evident that the department has carefully considered the [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards \(BCPPS\) 4.2.1](#) that sets out the standard for law enforcement agencies in British Columbia incorporating BWC policies and also considered our [Guidance for the use of Body-Worn Cameras by Law Enforcement Authorities](#). In addition, it is evident that the department developed the operational guidelines by conducting considerable research, stakeholder consultations and by reviewing several

*other police departments BWC polices from across Canada, including the Delta Police Department's policy.*¹¹

Procurement

In accordance with the VPD's procurement policies, a public request for proposals (RFP) was utilized to select the vendor for the BWC pilot program. A [detailed 53 page RFP](#) was posted publicly on <https://bcbid.gov.bc.ca/> and <https://canadabuys.canada.ca/> with an opening date of May 24, 2023 and a closing date of June 19, 2023.

The submitted bids were then scored by an evaluation panel within the VPD and Axon Enterprise Inc. (Axon) was selected as the preferred vendor. Following their successful submission, the VPD engaged in final contract negotiations and signed a contract with Axon for the pilot program.

Pilot Program Details

The BWC evaluation period officially began on January 4, 2024. The evaluation period ran until June 30, 2024; 100 members were trained and participated in the BWC program. Seventy officers in a patrol capacity (in District 1 and District 2) participated in the pilot program. The remaining cameras were used by 23 traffic enforcement officers and seven other operational members, including duty officers (operational patrol inspectors).

Throughout January 2024, a total of 78 members were trained to utilize and deploy with BWCs. Training was ongoing with 22 additional members being on-boarded in April 2024.

When the evaluation period concluded on June 30, 2024, members were allowed to keep their BWCs and continued using them on a voluntary basis until a decision was made on the full VPD deployment of BWCs. To date (September 26, 2024), only two members have returned their cameras. One of these members retired and the other was transferred out of patrol to an investigative section.

Staffing designated to the pilot program consisted of a project manager and the BWC Project Team.

The project manager was responsible for a variety of tasks to ensure the successful implementation of the BWC pilot program. This included ensuring that:

- the procurement process was consistent with City of Vancouver procurement standards;
- community engagement sessions were conducted;
- all required components such as training and guideline development occurred;
- that facility and IT requirements were met; and,
- required support resources were identified and put in place.

The BWC Project Team played a crucial role in supporting the VPD's BWC pilot program. The team consisted of one inspector, two constables, and two temporary civilian professional disclosure clerks. Their responsibilities included:

¹¹ Email correspondence from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC.

- **Support and Training:** The sworn members, known as “super users,” provided technical assistance and training to other officers using the BWCs and the Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS). This system is used for storing and accessing video footage for investigative and court purposes.
- **Technical Assistance:** They helped pilot participants with any technical issues related to the cameras and
- **BWC Coverage:** The team was split into “odd” and “even” shifts, ensuring that support was available seven days a week for all members participating in the pilot.

This structure ensured that the pilot program ran smoothly and that officers had the necessary support to effectively use the BWCs and manage the associated digital evidence.

Pilot Program Expenditures

Council approved \$200,000 in 2023 to commence a pilot and then an additional \$307,000 in 2024 for total funding of \$507,000, over two years, to conduct a pilot program on BWCs. These funds were used to acquire 100 BWCs, upgrade facilities to accommodate secure video uploading, BWC charging stations, train members to use the BWC, and hire two civilian professionals to aid in disclosure, vetting, and technical support.

The civilian professional salary covered the costs associated with hiring two temporary disclosure clerks. The civilian professionals were responsible for video redaction, court package preparation, and technical support. Other expenditures included facility upgrades to accommodate BWC video uploading and BWC charging as well as training costs for internal trainers. It was determined that member training would need to occur during their days off in order to prevent having a negative impact on public safety by having members non-deployable for their entire shift.

Table 2 – BWC Pilot Program Expenditures

	Total Cost of Pilot
	(2023-2024)
	(recorded in millions)
<u>Spent</u>	
Equipment	\$0.14
Facilities Upgrade	\$0.03
Training	\$0.01
Support Staffing	\$0.33
Total Spent	\$0.51
<u>VPD Absorbed / Contribution</u>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$0.88
Total VPD Absorbed / Contribution	\$0.88
Total BWC Pilot	\$1.39

Ultimately, the incremental cost of the pilot program is estimated at \$510,000, slightly over the budgeted \$507,000. It is worth noting that during the pilot program period, there was an additional \$880,000 of VPD absorbed costs/contributions dedicated to the program. The VPD absorbed costs/contribution included existing VPD staff who worked on all aspects of setting up and supporting the BWC pilot program. This work included the development of guidelines, public consultation, training program, and technical support to members. The most significant in-kind costs were associated to the full-time project manager and BWC Project Team. Note that these in-kind costs did not result in any incremental expenses over the VPD operating budget. Overall, the cost of the pilot program including in-kind resources would amount to approximately \$1,390,000.

Body Worn Camera Training

The VPD's BWC pilot program training course was developed internally by the VPD's Training and Recruiting Section. This training was developed by utilizing material from Axon, other Canadian police agencies, and internal VPD processes and workflow. The goal of the training was to equip frontline patrol members with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively and responsibly use BWCs. Members learned about the operation of the BWC, the legal framework in which to deploy the BWC, the ethical and privacy considerations, and the VPD BWC pilot program guidelines. This training ensured that members were prepared to use BWC technology to enhance accountability, trust, and safety.

Members were trained via a hybrid learning model, consisting of 90 minutes of online learning and eight hours of in-class learning. The in-class learning consisted of four hours of instruction and four hours of scenario-based training.

The topics covered in the course were as follows:

- Legal foundations governing the operation of BWC;
- Axon BWC features;
- DEMS;
- Vetting and disclosure;
- Workflow;
- Court testimony;
- Professional communication and de-escalation strategies*; and
- Tactical and officer safety considerations.*

* denotes in-class learning

Thirteen classes were held through January 2024 with a second round of two classes in April 2024 for additional members who requested to join the pilot program. The training courses were very in-depth and resource intensive. The largest classes consisted of 12 participants. Due to the wide array of material being covered, 14 separate instructors were required. In addition, the courses required role players to run the scenario-based training.

The scenario-based training consisted of members attending a call for service, operating the BWC, and working to de-escalate the situation. Members were debriefed at the end of all scenarios and given feedback on their legal, tactical, and de-escalation decisions in addition to answering questions regarding camera operation.

This training was delivered in-house by VPD employees after they completed train-the-trainer courses. As this training was delivered to operational members, there were limitations on how long teams could be non-deployable. For this reason, the 90 minute e-learning component was completed by members during their regular shift as it did not necessitate the entire team taking training at the same time. However, the in-class component was completed on overtime in order to ensure public and officer safety was not negatively affected.

Public Surveys

General Public Survey

As part of the BWC pilot program, the VPD surveyed the public to determine their feelings towards the use of BWCs in Vancouver by the VPD. The survey was opened on January 12, 2024 and ran until June 30, 2024. This survey was accessible on the VPD's BWC website and was also mentioned multiple times on VPD social media accounts in order to ensure a wide public reach. Further, to minimize barriers to accessing the survey, it was translated by a professional translation company and made available in the following languages:

- Arabic;
- Simplified Chinese;
- Traditional Chinese;
- English;
- French;
- Hindi;
- Japanese;
- Korean;
- Farsi;
- Punjabi;
- Spanish;
- Tagalog; and,
- Vietnamese.

The survey had 705 respondents who were asked to respond on a five point scale to five statements regarding BWCs. The respondents overwhelmingly supported the use of BWCs by the VPD, feeling that it will enhance trust and accountability, provide an unbiased depiction of the events captured, and aid in the timely and appropriate resolution of police conduct complaints.

Three out of four respondents wanted a member to use a BWC when interacting with them. The number of respondents, who agreed with the statement that they would prefer a BWC be used during their interactions with VPD members, was lower than the overall level of support with the use of BWCs by the VPD. This difference is explained by a higher proportion of respondents feeling indifferent to the use of BWCs compared to support for the program overall.

Table 3 – General Survey Responses

Question	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Body worn cameras will enhance trust and accountability between police and the public. (n=701)*	85.2% (597)	6.1% (43)	8.7% (61)
Body worn cameras will provide an unbiased depiction of the events captured. (n=700)	83.7% (586)	6.9% (48)	9.4% (66)
Body worn cameras will aid in the appropriate and timely resolution of police conduct complaints. (n=693)	85.3% (591)	5.5% (38)	9.2% (64)
I would prefer that a VPD officer use a body worn camera during interactions with me. (n=701)	76.6% (537)	13.0% (91)	10.4% (73)
I support the use of body worn cameras by the VPD. (n=702)	88.3% (620)	3.6% (25)	8.1% (57)

*Note: “n” represents the total number of respondents who responded to the question with an answer other than “don’t know”.

Public Interaction Survey

A public interaction survey ran for the duration of the BWC evaluation period. This survey was intended to assess the experience of those who interacted with officers who utilized a BWC. Cards with a QR code and a link to the survey were handed out to those who interacted with the police. Members of the public were asked to rate their agreement with the following statements:

- The presence of a body worn camera made me feel that the interaction would be documented fairly;
- The presence of a body worn camera made me feel more comfortable with my interaction with the police; and,
- I believe that all individuals involved in the interaction were more respectful and calm because a body worn camera was present.

In addition, they were asked to provide their role in the interaction with the officer.

The survey questions were developed through a review of previous studies conducted on BWCs, including the pilot program conducted at the Toronto Police Service (TPS)¹² where the TPS asked persons who interacted with officers wearing BWCs a series of questions regarding their interaction.

Steps were taken to maximize the response rate to this survey. The public was informed that the survey would not be traced back to them in any way. The survey did not ask for personally identifiable information or any specific details on the interaction.

To maximize the likelihood that officers would hand out the cards, they were provided with a copy of the questions asked so they knew the details of the survey they were providing. Furthermore, officers were reminded of the importance of handing out the cards to the people with whom they had interaction, and to remind the person of the anonymity of completing the survey.

Ultimately, there were only seven respondents to the survey and thus it was not possible to make any inferences about the general population. However, the responses to this survey are detailed in the table below.

¹² https://www.tps.ca/media/filer_public/17/f3/17f32f12-04d3-462f-8056-d94077bfb842/8c9c8dd1-f6ac-4f2c-93ae-af90d7501546.pdf

It should be noted that six out of the seven respondents had “negative” interactions with the police, such as being given a traffic violation ticket or other citation, being a subject of a complaint, or being arrested. The one remaining respondent was a witness/complainant.

Table 4 – Interaction Survey Responses

Question	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
The presence of a body worn camera made me feel that the interaction would be documented fairly.	6	1	0
The presence of a body worn camera made me feel more comfortable with my interaction with the police.	5	1	1
I believe that all individuals involved in the interaction were more respectful and calm because a body worn camera was present.	6	0	1

Internal Surveys

An internal VPD survey was given to VPD members prior to the beginning of the evaluation period and again at the end of the evaluation period. This allowed for the evaluation of initial perceptions and feelings towards the use and impact of BWCs and how their views changed once the evaluation period concluded. All members in areas where cameras were utilized were given the survey, regardless if the member utilized a BWC or not. This allowed for an examination of the view of those who worked close to members using cameras as well as those who used cameras.

The survey asked members to what extent they felt aspects of their work may be impacted by the deployment of a BWC, either by increasing or decreasing:

- With the utilization of BWCs, administrative work will...;
- With the utilization of BWCs, the quality of evidence will...;
- With the utilization of BWCs, the fairness in *Police Act* investigations will...;
- While utilizing a BWC, my officer discretion will...;
- While utilizing a BWC, my proactive policing investigations (e.g. impaired driving, property crime patrol, etc.) will...;
- While utilizing a BWC, my interactions with the public that are not directly related to a call for service will...;
- With the utilization of BWCs, the number of OPCC complaints filed will...;
- With the utilization of BWCs, public confidence and trust in the VPD will...;
- While utilizing BWCs, MY positive interactions with the public will...; and,
- While utilizing BWCs, the PUBLIC’s positive interactions with the police will....

Additionally, respondents were asked whether they supported the use of BWCs at the VPD or not.

The initial survey, prior to the evaluation period, had 113 respondents, 25 of whom utilized BWCs. The follow-up survey had 92 respondents, 38 of whom utilized BWCs.

Pre-Evaluation Survey

Prior to the beginning of the evaluation period, 73% of officers who completed the initial survey (regardless if they used a BWC or not) were supportive of the concept of using a BWC.

Members anticipated that there would be increases in:

- administrative work;
- the quality of evidence;
- the fairness of *Police Act* investigations; and,
- the public confidence and trust in the VPD.

Conversely, members perceived that there would be decreases in:

- use of officer discretion, and
- the number of OPCC complaints.

Table 5 –Patrol Member Pre-Evaluation Period Pilot Survey

Question	Decrease	Not Change	Increase
With the utilization of BWCs, admin work will...	4% (5)	24% (27)	72% (82)
With the utilization of BWCs, the quality of evidence will...	3% (3)	7% (8)	90% (102)
With the utilization of BWCs, the fairness in Police Act investigations will...	8% (9)	31% (35)	61% (70)
While utilizing a BWC, my officer discretion will...	40% (46)	55% (63)	4% (5)
While utilizing a BWC, my proactive policing investigations (e.g. impaired driving, property crime patrol, etc.) will...	25% (28)	67% (76)	9% (10)
While utilizing a BWC, my interactions with the public that are not directly related to a call for service will...	25% (29)	70% (80)	4% (5)
With the utilization of BWCs, the number of OPCC complaints filed will...	38% (43)	45% (51)	18% (20)
With the utilization of BWCs, public confidence and trust in the VPD will...	6% (7)	51% (58)	43% (49)
While utilizing BWCs, MY positive interactions with the public will...	11% (12)	79% (90)	11% (12)
While utilizing BWCs, the PUBLIC'S positive interactions with the police will...	11% (13)	65% (74)	24% (27)

Post-Evaluation Survey

There was no significant change in the overall support of the BWC program, with 72% of all members who took the survey expressing support for the use of BWC at the VPD. Support for a BWC program was at 92% for those who utilized a BWC in the pilot program.

After the evaluation period, members noted that many aspects they were asked about did not change. Members, regardless of participation in the pilot program, perceived increases in:

- administrative work; and,
- the quality of evidence.

Those who utilized BWCs during the evaluation period also perceived increases in:

- public confidence and trust in the VPD;
- their positive interactions with the public; and
- the public’s positive interactions with them.

Table 6 –Patrol Member Post-Evaluation Period Pilot Survey

Question	Decrease	Not Change	Increase
With the utilization of BWC, administrative work...	1% (1)	15% (14)	84% (77)
With the utilization of BWC, the quality of evidence...	0% (0)	38% (35)	62% (57)
With the utilization of BWC, the fairness in Police Act investigations...	7% (6)	66% (61)	27% (25)
During the BWC pilot, my officer discretion...	24% (22)	71% (65)	5% (5)
During the BWC pilot, my proactive policing investigations (e.g. impaired driving, property crime patrol, etc.)...	10% (9)	86% (79)	4% (4)
During the BWC pilot, my interactions with the public that are not directly related to a call for service...	11% (10)	87% (80)	2% (2)
During the BWC pilot, the number of OPCC complaints filed...	5% (5)	91% (84)	3% (3)
With the utilization of BWCs, the public confidence and trust in the VPD...	0% (0)	70% (64)	30% (28)
During the BWC pilot, MY positive interactions with the public...	5% (5)	78% (72)	16% (15)
During the BWC pilot, the PUBLIC’S positive interactions with the police...	2% (2)	75% (69)	23% (21)

Body Worn Camera Statistics

Officer Usage

BWCs were distributed into two main areas: Patrol and Traffic Enforcement. Together these members collected 6,211 video totaling 63,311 minutes (or 1,055 hours of video).

The average length of video varied depending on the use case. BWC videos have been categorized into three categories:

- Ticket related video (Tickets);
- Police report related video (GO reports); and,
- Call for service related video (CAD calls).

There were 3,718 videos that were related to violation tickets. These videos had an average length of 07:44 which is consistent with the expected interaction time for issuing a traffic ticket.

When the public calls police for assistance, a call for service is created in the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Whether a call for service results in the completion of a general occurrence (GO) report, also known as a police report, is dependent on the circumstances of the call.

Overall, there were 1,348 videos with an average length of 18:18 from incidents which resulted in a police report being completed. This is longer than the average length of 08:37 for the 1,145 videos which did not result in a police report. This is consistent with the expectation that videos related to police reports would be longer than those which did not.

For reports which resulted in a police report, these incidents can be further broken down into four categories:

- Violent Crime Offenses;
- Property Crime Offenses;
- Other Criminal Code Offenses (e.g., drug trafficking, possession of weapons, etc.); and,
- Non-Criminal Incidents (e.g., lost property, mental health act apprehensions, protests, etc.)

Table 7 – BWC Video Counts and Length by Type of Interaction

Video Type	Total Video Length	Number of Videos	Average Video Length
Tickets	28,782m 4s	3,718	7m 44s
CAD Calls (no police report)	9,856m 37s	1,145	8m 27s
Police Reports	24,673m 8s	1,348	18m 18s
Violent crime	5,686m 39s	260	21m 52s
Property crime	2,140m 7s	114	18m 46s
Other criminal code	2,789m 23s	154	18m 7s
Non-criminal report	14,056m 59s	820	17m 9s

As expected violent crimes had longer videos as they were likely to have a longer period of interaction with suspects and interviewing victims.

Use of Force

When officers are involved in interactions where they utilize force that meet the reporting threshold, they must complete a Subject Behavior Officer Response Report (SBORR), or use of force report. The minimum reporting threshold is when members use soft physical control techniques (such as holding someone’s arm) which result in an injury requiring medical attention or any hard physical control technique (such as physical strikes). These reports detail the circumstances of the incident and the use of force and then are reported to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General annually. Additionally, they are reviewed

internally by the VPD Force Options Training Section to identify any systemic issues which may require corrective or supplementary training.

In order to assess the impact that the use of BWC had on use of force, members participating in the BWC program had their reportable use of force compared to the same time frame of the prior year (2023). Only members who were deployed as of January 1, 2023 were included in this analysis as a baseline was required for the comparison. This means that officers who were recruited prior to March 2022, were excluded as they would not have been deployed in the pre-pilot comparator period.

While the number of SBORRs written by members who participated in the BWC pilot project appears to have increase by 12.4%, it should be noted that this is an increase of 22 SBORRs. Additionally, there are two members who participated in the BWC pilot program who account for this increase of 22 reports. With these outliers excluded, the use of BWC appears to have a positive impact on reducing incidents of reportable use of force.

Table 8 – SBORRs During and Prior to BWC Evaluation Period

	Pre-Pilot Comparator	BWC Evaluation Period	Percent Change
BWC Participants	177	199	12.4%
All other officers	1,486	1,547	4.1%

When examining the types of use of force utilized there was a reduction in the number of incidents of conducted energy weapon use and an increase in the number of hard control tactics used. It should be noted that the number of types of force used will be greater than the number of use of force reports as multiple types of force can be used in a single incident.

It should be noted that of members participating in the BWC pilot program, only 45 authored an SBORR during the evaluation period. Furthermore, these incidents are not common and are subject to fluctuations based on the specific circumstances of incidents which members attend. As such, a more fulsome analysis of use of force reporting can be conducted after a full deployment of BWC and over a longer time horizon to better assess how BWCs impact reportable use of force at the VPD.

Table 9 – Changes in SBORRs During BWC Evaluation Period

Type of Force Use	Pre-Pilot Comparator	BWC Evaluation Period	Percent Change
Presentation of Firearm	67	70	4.5%
Hard Physical Control	50	63	26.0%
Soft Physical Control	36	37	2.8%
Extended Range Impact Weapon	21	26	23.8%
Conducted Energy Weapon	35	24	-31.4%
Improvised Weapon	2	7	250.0%
OC Spray	1	2	100.0%
Baton	1	0	-100.0%
Specialty Munitions	0	0	--
Police Dog	0	0	--
Vascular Neck Restraint	0	0	--

An examination of assaults against police officers by the public was also conducted to determine if there was a positive impact from BWCs on this aspect of use of force. This analysis was conducted by looking at incidents with a Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) code of Assault Police Officer and looking at the number of police officers with a victim role code within these files.

Results from the analysis are inconclusive and show that members who utilized BWCs during the pilot experienced a moderate decrease in the number of officers who were victims of assault while on duty. This decrease was mirrored by officers who did not utilize BWCs. From January 1 to June 30, 2023 compared to same time frame in 2024, assaults against police officers decreased by 16.7% from six to five for the BWC pilot group. The decrease was 15.9% for those who were not part of the BWC pilot, decreasing from 63 to 53. Similar to SBORRs and officer use of force, a more fulsome analysis of assaults against police officers can be conducted after a full deployment of BWC and over a longer time horizon.

Professional Standards

Members of the public have a variety of avenues for filing complaints regarding police misconduct. When a complaint is made it will be reviewed by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) to determine if the complaint is admissible. For example, complaints that are deemed to be made in bad faith, are vexatious, or regarding interactions which occurred many years in the past would not be admissible.

There have been seven complaints received during the evaluation period for which there was a BWC present, three of which have been deemed admissible by the OPCC and four of which are still being evaluated for admissibility by the OPCC. It should be noted that complaints can be made within one year of the interaction, therefore the number of complaints related to interactions occurring during the evaluation period could increase in the future.

For comparison, there have been 97 complaints deemed admissible by the OPCC between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

Under BC's *Personal Information Protection Act*, individuals have the right to access their own personal information, including that held by public entities. The video from a BWC would classify as personal information. The Information and Privacy Services Section has received five requests for release of BWC video related to VPD incidents. When the BWC program expands, it is expected that there will be a significant increase in the number of requests and thus the workload of the Information and Privacy Services Section will increase correspondingly.

Civilian Administrative Support

When officers solve a case and forward recommended charges to Crown Counsel via a Report to Crown Counsel (RTCC) there are a number of steps which must be taken. Officers must complete and provide required documentation as indicated by the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BC Prosecution Services (BCPS). This MOU contains directions on which information is required for Crown to approve charges. Civilian professional staff in the Information Management Section (IMS) support sworn members in this process. Specifically, the Audio Transcription Unit (ATU) provides transcripts of video and audio recordings which will be used as evidence. Additionally, the Crown Liaison Unit (CLU) ensures that RTCCs are processed and submitted to Crown Counsel in a timely manner as required by law.

The utilization of BWC has impacted these areas as the ATU faces high demand for audio transcription and the CLU has additional files to process and send to Crown Counsel within legally defined time limits. The use of BWC specifically impacts the CLU due to the size and processing time of BWC video. The video files are large MP4 extension video files. By comparison, prior to the implementation of BWCs, most file extensions were small PDF files and pictures, which were processed very quickly by the systems used by Crown Counsel.

During the evaluation period, 155 RTCCs with BWC video evidence were submitted to Crown Counsel for charge approval. These files consisted of 224 videos totaling approximately 5,650 minutes (94 hours and 10 minutes). It is important to note that the audio transcription process is lengthy and requires additional validation and verification as it is for court purposes. It was determined that BWC footage is much more difficult to transcribe than the standard transcription requests usually conducted by the ATU. The ATU usually transcribes interviews which are conducted in a controlled environment with participants (usually just two) identified at the beginning of the recording. The same is consistent for transcription of 911 calls; while not a controlled environment, there are usually just two voices captured on the recording that need to be transcribed. BWC footage is fundamentally different as it can consist of multiple people who are not clearly identified, combined with distracting background noise. As a result, transcription of BWC footage requires approximately eight minutes of work for every one minute of video.

Of the RTCCs submitted to Crown Counsel for approval, 29 were approved for charges and 20 were not. The remaining 106 files were pending at the completion of the evaluation period.

Future Steps

Based on this evaluation, the VPD recommends expanding the BWC program to frontline members. There are three options for consideration:

- Option One: Deploy 812 personally assigned cameras to operational frontline members.
 - Option One satisfies the council motion to equip all front-line and patrol officers with BWCs by 2025 using the minimum number of cameras. However, members working outside of Operations would not have access to a camera when working uniformed callouts.
- Option Two: Deploy 812 personally assigned BWCs to frontline members, plus an additional 169 BWCs available to investigative and administrative members for use during callouts and warrant executions. This would be a hybrid model utilizing both personally assigned cameras and pooled cameras;
 - Option Two is the recommended option because it satisfies the council motion and resolves the identified gap in Option one.
- Option Three: 539 BWCs shared among 812 frontline members utilizing a pooled BWC model.
 - Option Three is not recommended. While it addresses item 14 of the council motion that the number of cameras be reflective of the number of on-duty officers (pooled camera model), this is not best practice among major city police agencies and the cost savings are not significant (see Financial Implications).

All three options will follow a similar implementation path and the costs associated to each option will be detailed in the [Financial Implications](#) section.

Personal Issue Equipment versus Pooled Cameras

Under Options One and Two, the BWCs for frontline members are personally assigned. Having personally assigned BWCs has a number of benefits which outweighs the expense of additional hardware, compared to utilizing a pooled model and would be the suggested best practice for the following reasons.

Having personal issued equipment increases the sense of ownership over the equipment which results in better care and maintenance. We know this to be true based on the VPD's experience with the conducted energy weapons (CEW), bean bag shotgun, and C8 (patrol rifle/patrol carbine) programs.

Another benefit of having personal issued BWCs is that once a BWC has been assigned and issued to a member that camera will integrate seamlessly with the auto activation feature of the Taser 7 and the Axon Signal Sidearm. This is important because in accordance with the BCPPS and our guidelines, use of force encounters are currently the only type of call that requires a member to activate their camera. The greatest danger of a pooled model is having a member deploy with a camera not properly assigned. In this scenario, if a member forgets or does not properly assign their camera to themselves, their CEW or firearm will not auto activate resulting in no BWC video of the encounter.

Using a pooled device model would add a significant administrative workload to each member as well. For example, there are 746 members (of the 816 receiving BWCs in Option One and Two) who work rotational shifting schedules. This means that BWCs will be assigned and un-assigned 136,145 times per year. Assigning a BWC takes approximately five minutes at the start of each shift. Consequently, the process of assigning a BWC equates to 11,065 officer hours annually, or 5.3 full-time equivalent.

In addition to the time it will take each member to assign a camera to themselves each shift, there is also the potential for added administrative work in the form of lost evidence. If the member fails to assign the BWC to themselves properly at the beginning of their shift they will create unassigned BWC videos during their shift. This will result in the member needing to sift through all the unassigned BWC video that exists in order to identify their video and associate it to their file. There is also a risk that the member will be unable to find their video and files could be returned by Crown Counsel due to a lack of disclosure because of the lost evidence.

Failure to properly assign a camera will also result in video not being categorized properly. This creates the potential for evidence to be lost due to video purging based on categorization. In order to prevent this loss of evidence, significant civilian resources would be required to sort through video to properly assign a categorization to ensure appropriate purging.

It should be noted that under Option Three, there are 746 members who will be able to pool BWCs based on their shifting model. These members work odd/even shifting (a four day-on, four day-off) schedule allowing members to share BWCs as they never work the same days. The remaining 66 members work in areas where their shifts overlap, preventing the use of pooled BWCs. Overall, this means that pooling BWCs would necessitate 373 pooled BWCs and an additional 66 assigned BWCs for a total of 439 BWCs. However, there is a need for additional cameras for members working overtime shifts for major public safety events such as the Celebration of Light, New Year's Eve, Vancouver Canucks playoff games and

ongoing protests and demonstrations. Due to the size of some of these callouts, it is expected that an additional 100 cameras would be required, bringing the total camera requirement to 539 if utilizing pooled BWCs.

The use of pooled BWCs would also require the renovation of existing facilities to store the 404 BWCs for members who deploy from police headquarters at 2120 Cambie Street. Members in other areas such as the Canine Unit have designated facilities that could house the BWCs with minimal renovations being required. Pooling the devices would require equipment management, most likely through the current kiosk. The kiosk would have to undergo a substantial renovation in order to manage the BWCs. A personally assigned model would negate the need for an extensive renovation to the kiosk because the cameras would be located in each District office or at each supervisor's desk.

As indicated above, there would be substantial issues if we proceeded with a pooled camera model and if we look at other major agencies across Canada it appears the best practice is a personal issued model. For example, Calgary Police Service and Toronto Police Service adopted the personal issue model. The RCMP, who are in the process of rolling out their BWC program, have also adopted a personal issue model.

Vancouver Police Union Engagement

The project management team worked closely with the Vancouver Police Union (VPU) to address and resolve issues related to the use of BWCs. The VPU had two members on the BWC Working Group and played a crucial role in identifying pilot participants. The VPU agreed to the pilot program, evaluation framework, and the pilot program guidelines, which they helped shape. Executive members of the VPU attended most of the BWC training sessions, which facilitated quick resolution of identified concerns. Protecting the privacy rights of police officers was a primary concern for the VPU, and they worked with the project management team to establish procedures for OPCC investigations and access to BWC video. After the pilot period had ended, the project management team and the VPU agreed that officers would continue to deploy with their BWCs on a voluntary basis. They also agreed to continue to monitor the internal police complaint process to determine if there is conclusive data that BWCs improve oversight and accountability.

Moving forward, the VPU will continue to be engaged and if BWCs are approved and funded for all frontline officers, the project management team will continue to work with the VPU to address any outstanding issues surrounding BWCs and the collective agreement. Section 16 of the Collective Agreement between the Vancouver Police Board and the VPU relates specifically to technological changes and is found below.

16. TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

During the term of this Agreement any disputes arising in relation to adjustment to technological change shall be discussed between the bargaining representative of the two parties to this Agreement.

Where the Employer introduces or intends to introduce, a technological change, that:

- (a) affects the terms and conditions, or security of employment of a significant number of members to whom this Agreement applies; and*
- (b) alters significantly the basis upon which this Agreement was negotiated;*

either party may, if the dispute cannot be settled in direct negotiations, refer the matter directly to an arbitration board constituted under Section 14.2 of this Agreement bypassing all other steps in the grievance procedure.

The arbitration board shall decide whether or not the Employer has introduced, or intends to introduce a technological change, and upon deciding that the Employer has or intends to introduce a technological change, the arbitration board:

- (a) shall inform the Minister of Labour of its finding; and*
- (b) may then or later make any one or more of the following orders:*
 - (i) that the change be made in accordance with the terms of this Agreement unless the change alters significantly the basis upon which this Agreement was negotiated;*
 - (ii) that the Employer will not proceed with the technological change for such period, not exceeding 90 days, as the arbitration board considers appropriate;*
 - (iii) that the Employer reinstate any member displaced by reason of technological change;*
 - (iv) that the Employer pay to that member such compensation in respect of the member's displacement as the arbitration board considers reasonable.*

The Employer will give to the Union in writing at least 90 days' notice of any intended technological change that:

- (a) affects the terms and conditions or security of employment of a significant number of the members to whom this Agreement applies; and*
- (b) alters significantly the basis upon which this Agreement was negotiated.*

Communication, Policy, and Training

Public and internal communication will begin in January 2025, once a final decision is made on the BWC program. The VPD will communicate to the public that they can begin to observe officers wearing BWCs more often, reiterate the circumstances when BWCs will be activated, and highlight the purpose of the program. Similar communication will occur internally, along with details on training for members and pre-requisite courses they will need to complete in order to deploy with a BWC.

Once BWCs are part of a formal program within the VPD, the guidelines will need to transition to a policy. This will necessitate approval from the Executive Committee and then subsequently the VPB as well as an

updated PIA detailing any changes from the current guidelines. The update of the guidelines will include provisions for changing certain aspects of the guidelines, such as when cameras are required to be activated and what areas and instances they should not be used. This will be informed by member and community feedback.

Training for pilot program members was conducted on overtime during days off, due to the timing of the pilot program. This is not a typical manner in which training is conducted as there are designated on-duty training days each year for patrol members. These training days are referred to as “cycle training” and occur during non-operational shifts. Cycle 2 training in 2025 will be utilized to train members on the use of BWC and will run from March through June. Newly-hired members will be assigned a BWC as they graduate from the Justice Institute of British Columbia and will receive BWC training as part of their VPD onboarding process.

In order to meet the fixed nature of the training dates, the purchasing of equipment will begin in January 2025. This must occur in January to allow for the delivery and set up of equipment in February, as members will be training the following month in March. In addition to registering the BWCs on the VPD network and assigning them to members, the docking stations need to be set up at various locations throughout the department.

BWC Supports

The pilot program has shown that there are a number of supports that are required to support a BWC program and make efficient use of police resources and maximize the benefits of a BWC. In order to support a full BWC rollout, VPD will formalize the BWC Team as the BWC Section to support BWC operations and the primary administrative function of disclosure related to BWC video. As well, VPD must budget for additional costs associated with increasing the staffing levels of some centralized support units. Specifically, there will need to be an increase in centralized resourcing for audio transcription staff, crown liaison staff, internal mental health supports for civilian professionals, and the formalization of BWC Section including disclosure clerks.

As discussed previously, the use of BWC adds additional workload to the current ATU. Not only does BWC video transcription add to the current volume of requests, the transcription process for BWC video is more time consuming due to the nature of the recordings and the number of people captured. This will necessitate an expansion of the ATU authorized strength.

Similarly, there will need to be an expansion of the current CLU. The current CLU clerks process RTCCs at the time they arrive to work because arrests that occur overnight are processed first thing in the morning. As mentioned prior, due to legal requirements and the MOU agreement, RTCCs must be processed in a timely manner. The electronic evidence retrieved from a BWC is considerably larger (in file size) than the PDF documents and photos that typically accompany RTCCs without BWC video evidence. The implication is that the extraction and processing of this information from DEMS takes more time and as such, an expansion in the number of CLU clerks to manage the expected influx of RTCCs with BWC video is required.

Other BWC program supports will be housed within a core BWC Section. This Section will consist of three teams comprised of sworn and civilian staff. Sworn members will deliver training to members and provide technical support and equipment maintenance to support the BWC program. The two civilian teams will be comprised of disclosure experts. These teams will work “odd” and “even” shifting to match the scheduling of sworn operational members who deploy with BWCs. These civilian professionals will be

disclosure clerks with two distinct functions, court disclosure and disclosure under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The temporary BWC disclosure clerks employed in the pilot program will need to be formalized and expanded as their work is required to meet disclosure requirements for court purposes, as explained prior in this report. The disclosure process includes significant work redacting and preparing files for court. They will also aid in the redaction of video for release under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Finally, there will be a need to expand mental wellness resources for civilian professionals as they will be exposed to increased amounts of sensitive visual and audio material that can have a negative impact on mental health with increased exposure to traumatic events.

With regard to BWC support given by sworn members, there will be a need to formalize a BWC Support Team. These members will provide technical support for members with the BWCs and are “super users” for the DEMS platform where the BWC videos are stored. The BWC Support Team is able to address video access and technical issues and will coordinate training. Additionally, the BWC Support Team will work with the VPD’s Audit Unit to develop audit protocols to ensure that the VPD’s BWC program is compliant with the audit standards as laid out in *British Columbia Provincial Policing Standard 4.2.1*.

The supports required for the BWC program were examined for opportunities to streamline the process using continuous process improvement (CPI). At the completion of the BWC evaluation period, the VPD began work with City of Vancouver CPI experts.

Continuous Process Improvement

Following the end of the BWC evaluation period, City of Vancouver CPI experts reviewed the pilot processes to identify any opportunities for efficiencies. The goal of this review was to ensure the additional administrative processes required for the use of BWC were being managed as efficiently as possible and to minimize the staffing requirements. Two CPI experts, over the duration of a couple months, conducted CPI Gemba walks (a workplace walkthrough with the intent of observing employees and identifying tasks) including two ride-a-longs, one with patrol officers and one with the BWC administrative staff. This allowed the CPI team to review and document how patrol members used their BWCs and to review the administrative processes that take place after a BWC video is taken. Several “quick win” opportunities were identified, such as the creation of an email template for transcription requests.

It was also identified that during the course of the evaluation period, the BWC Team had already made significant improvements through the use of templates, automation of file naming, and redaction tools to minimize the administrative processing of BWC files. As a result of the review, no major inefficiencies were identified in the BWC processes. The resourcing was also independently reviewed by the CPI experts for the audio transcription clerks and BWC disclosure clerks based on the anticipated BWC recordings identified in the pilot and RTCC submission data. These figures aligned with the staffing requirements derived by the VPD.

In a full BWC rollout, the CPI experts will be re-engaged to ensure the current efficiencies are maintained and assist in resolving any additional emerging challenges which may be discovered in a full rollout of BWCs.

Financial Implications

The cost of the three BWC deployment options at the VPD are detailed below. This section will show the costs over a three year period from 2025 to 2027. The contract with Axon will be for five years and will include a refresh of the cameras after 30 months. It is worth noting that the program costs for all three options will decrease after year one as 2025 will have additional costs associated to scaling up the program from the pilot deployment.

Option One

Year	2025	2026	2027
Number of Cameras	812	812	812
<u>One Time Costs</u>			
Operating	\$0.74	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital	\$0.52	\$0.00	\$0.01
Total One Time Costs	\$1.26	\$0.00	\$0.01
<u>Ongoing Cost</u>			
Operating	\$4.84	\$4.72	\$4.86
Total Annual Cost of BWC Program	\$6.10	\$4.72	\$4.87

Note: Prices in millions

Option one calls for a full rollout of personally assigned BWCs to all operational uniformed members. This includes all patrol officers, traffic enforcement, and other specialty units such as the Emergency Response Team, Gang Crime Unit, Canine Unit, Marine Unit, and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Option one satisfies the council motion to equip all front-line and patrol officers with BWCs by 2025; using the minimum number of cameras.

To implement BWC there will be a BWC Section consisting of one inspector, one sergeant, two constables, and 12 civilian professionals handling disclosure. The two constables (supervised by the sergeant) will handle equipment maintenance, trouble shooting, and training logistics. The civilians will consist of two teams working odd and even shifting to provide seven day a week court disclosure services. Under this option each team will consist of one supervisor (who will also conduct disclosure), three court disclosure clerks, and two freedom of information disclosure analysts (one hired in 2025 and the second in 2026). The freedom of information disclosure analysts are being staggered as it is anticipated that the workload will increase as the number of BWC videos increase.

In addition to the BWC Section, there is a need to expand civilian professional supports in ATU and CLU; this includes seven audio transcription clerks, two Crown liaison clerks. It should be noted that these civilian support staffing figures were derived independently by both the VPD and the City of Vancouver CPI team.

Option one calls for all 812 cameras to be personal issue and all training to be completed during cycle two training days in 2025, thus not incurring any overtime costs for training. Additionally, all one-time costs have been incurred in 2025, thus 2026 and 2027 have significantly lower ongoing costs.

A limitation of this option is that there will not be spare cameras available for members who are called out and not part of the BWC program. Therefore, there will be instances where the public will interact with a VPD officer in uniform who is not wearing a BWC. For example, this would include members who were trained on BWC but do not deploy with them, such as School Liaison Officers, who may take call out shifts for concerts, movie callouts, or large scale public safety events and protests with significant public order considerations.

Option Two

Year	2025	2026	2027
Number of Cameras	981	981	981
<u>One Time Costs</u>			
Operating	\$0.74	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital	\$0.57	\$0.00	\$0.01
Total One Time Costs	\$1.31	\$0.00	\$0.01
<u>Ongoing Cost</u>			
Operating	\$5.26	\$5.11	\$5.25
Total Annual Cost of BWC Program	\$6.57	\$5.11	\$5.26

Note: Prices in millions

Option two calls for the deployment of a total of 981 cameras, using a hybrid model of personally assigned and pooled cameras. Option two is the recommended option because it satisfies the council motion and resolves the gap identified in option one. This option provides the greatest deployment of BWCs accounting for members assigned to investigative and administrative sections. While the majority of members who deploy operationally are in the Operations Division, investigative members do deploy to perform warrant executions. Additionally, both investigative and administrative members will deploy, in uniform, for public order events and callouts.

It should be noted that the difference in cost between option one and option two is related to hardware as the support staff in the BWC Section and additional civilian professional support clerks will remain the same. This is due to the fact that it is not anticipated that investigative and administrative members will add significant additional workload. Moreover, increased hardware costs are being limited due to utilizing pooled cameras for investigative and administrative members.

Prior in this report, the limitations of pooled BWC usage by operational members were discussed; however, the use of pooled cameras under option two are not expected to create a significant administrative burden due to the infrequent nature non-operational members are expected to deploy with BWCs. Additionally, these pooled cameras will not result in a significant renovation cost as their volume is relatively low.

Option Three

Year	2025	2026	2027
Number of Cameras	539	539	539
<u>One Time Costs</u>			
Operating	\$0.74	\$0.20	\$0.00
Capital	\$0.94	\$0.00	\$0.01
Total One Time Costs	\$1.68	\$0.20	\$0.01
<u>Ongoing Cost</u>			
Operating	\$4.83	\$4.72	\$4.88
Total Annual Cost of BWC Program	\$6.51	\$4.91	\$4.88

Note: Prices in millions

Option three outlines the requirements requested under item 14 in the BWC council motion that the number of cameras be reflective of the number of on-duty officers, in other words a pooled BWC deployment model. This option calls for the pooled deployment of 539 BWCs for 812 members. In addition there will be 100 BWCs to allow for members who take part in uniformed frontline callouts to deploy with a BWC (these 100 BWCs available for callouts are included in the 539 BWCs). With this option there are a number of drawbacks compared to the two other options.

This option will result in a productivity loss of approximately 5.3 sworn members per year due to the process of assigning BWCs. It is likely that this loss will be higher as the aforementioned estimate is based on the assumption there were no errors in assigning BWCs. The cost of 5.3 members is equivalent to approximately \$647,000 prior to benefits and equipment costs.

In order to account for the issues with video categorization from the incorrect assignment of cameras prior to shifts, the civilian professional staffing in the BWC Section will be increased with one additional disclosure clerk on each team in order to categorize videos properly. Otherwise, all other support staff (both sworn member and civilian professional) will remain the same.

An additional risk of improperly assigning BWCs is the automatic activation of BWC during the unholstering of force-options such as CEWs and firearms will not work. Furthermore, if a camera was not activated prior to the presentation of these force-options, it is unlikely that a member will be able to safely activate their camera until the situation is resolved.

There will also be increased capital outlays during the first year to create an area within the VPD's existing facilities to store the pooled BWCs. These costs are significant as there is currently no designated space at the Cambie St. facility that can easily accommodate 404 cameras (the pool for the Patrol Division, the Emergency Response Teams, and the Metro Teams).

Ultimately, option three provides the lowest financial hardware expenditures of all the options provided at the cost of an increased administrative burden, which is greater than the financial savings.

Conclusion

The VPD's BWC pilot program was a success as it provided valuable insights into how BWCs can function within the VPD as to how BWCs can function at the VPD. The unique challenges posed by British Columbia's Provincial Policing Standards and the charge approval process were effectively addressed, demonstrating the adaptability of the program.

Key Outcomes:

- **Widespread Support:** Public consultation and survey results showed strong support for the BWC program:
 - 88% of survey respondents supported the program.
 - 72% of VPD members supported the program, with 92% support among those who participated in the pilot.
- **Community and Partner Endorsement:** All community groups and partner agencies consulted voiced their support.
- **Administrative Support:** The pilot highlighted the need for substantial administrative support, allowing the VPD to quantify the necessary resources. These figures were independently verified by the City of Vancouver's CPI team.

With ample information and demonstrated support, the VPD is well-positioned to proceed with a full rollout of BWCs across all operational members. This initiative is expected to enhance trust, accountability, and safety for both the public and VPD officers.

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Appendix A – Public Consultation Schedule

Date	Group
2023/10/23	Business Improvement Association (BIA) Executives
2023/10/30	Sister Watch
2023/11/01	Be Amazing
2023/11/03	Indigenous Advisory Committee
2023/11/07	Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
2023/11/07	Sexual and Gender Diversity Liaison Committee
2023/11/21	Health Authorities
2023/12/01	Security Companies in Vancouver
2023/12/08	Single Resident Occupancy Hotels (SROs) and Shelters
2023/12/11	Virtual Town Hall #1
2023/12/12	Tsleil-Waututh Nation Council
2023/12/14	Virtual Town Hall #2
2024/01/12	Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2024/01/31	Musqueam Nation Safety & Security Council
2024/02/23	Federal & Provincial Crown
2024/04/18	Squamish Nation
2024/05/01	Crown Counsel - 222 Main

*Note: The VPD reached out to the African Descent Vancouver Police Department Advisory Committee (ADVPDAC) but they did not respond to requests to meet to discuss the BWC program.

Appendix B – VPD Body Worn Camera Operational Guidelines

Body Worn Camera Pilot Guidelines

Enacted: 2023.09.29

Updated: 2023.12.19

GENERAL

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) is committed to the development of a pilot program to determine the value and effectiveness of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) to:

- strengthen public safety and the well-being of the community;
- enhance transparency and trust between the community, employees and partner agencies;
- enhance accountability for both VPD members and the public; and,
- provide accurate and improved evidence collection for investigations.

SCOPE

BWCs are audio and video recording devices that document police members' interactions with the public during the course of their duties. They are intended to capture specific police interactions with the public, not for indiscriminate recording. The use of BWCs requires balancing the anticipated value of the program with the privacy rights of individuals, including VPD employees.

DEFINITIONS

Activate – to put the BWC in a state that is recording digital evidence for retrieval and archival purposes.

Body Worn Camera (BWC) – a wearable video and audio recording system approved and issued by the VPD.

Buffering Mode – to put the BWC in a state where it is powered on, but not activated. In this mode, the BWC continuously saves a 30-second loop of video (no audio) which is retained only if activated.

Digital Evidence – a recording that may include audio, video, and/or associated data that is stored for future retrieval.

Member – a sworn police officer employed by the VPD.

Stealth Mode – to put the BWC in a state where the light indicators and sounds are disabled for member safety and/or operational necessity.

PROCEDURE

Authorized Equipment and Training

1. Members may only use VPD issued BWCs and mount.
2. Members may not use their issued BWC unless they have successfully completed VPD approved BWC operator training.
3. In addition to initial training, members may be required to complete refresher training at periodic intervals to ensure continued effective use of the equipment, proper calibration and performance, and to incorporate changes, updates, or other revisions to operating procedures or equipment. This training shall include any changes to disclosure expectations.

Deployment of BWCs

4. Members assigned to the pilot program should wear BWCs during assigned uniform field duties (e.g., patrol duties, call-outs, traffic enforcement).
5. When a BWC is obtained at the start of shift, or during a shift, members should:
 - a) document in their notebook that they are deploying with a BWC;
 - b) attach the BWC to their uniform and position it to ensure it captures an unobstructed recording view and is readily visible to the public;
 - c) ensure the BWC is in buffering mode and functioning properly; and,
 - d) if the BWC is not functioning properly, return the device to the docking cradle, send an email to the BWC Coordinator detailing the issue(s) observed, and sign-out a spare BWC.

Notifications of BWC Recordings

6. Members should make reasonable efforts to ensure that persons being recorded are informed as soon as practicable that they are being recorded (unless providing this information would put the safety of the member and/or the public at risk).
7. Members should use the following standardized message when notifying a member of the public that they are being recorded, "I am rank/name and this interaction is being recorded."

8. The VPD recognizes that persons in vulnerable circumstances may require additional explanation or notification to ensure they are aware that they are being recorded in situations that may include, in part:
 - a) persons who may be vulnerable due to age (e.g., children or older adults);
 - b) persons with a visible disability or who may have communication barriers (e.g., language, hearing or speech);
 - c) persons with apparent mental health and/or substance use problems;
 - d) victims or witnesses who may be less inclined to report or speak to police because of precarious legal status (e.g., victims or witnesses who have outstanding warrants against them, or with precarious immigration status);
 - e) persons living in public spaces (e.g., persons dependent on, or sleeping in public spaces); and,
 - f) any other person(s) a member may determine to be in a vulnerable circumstance.

BWC Activations and Recordings

9. Members equipped with a BWC shall activate their camera as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so:
 - a) when attending a call, or responding to an incident where there is a reasonable belief that there will be use of force; or
 - b) where violent or aggressive behaviour is anticipated or displayed.
10. In addition to when it is required to activate the BWC, members should activate their BWC when:
 - a) initiating any contact with a member of the public for the purpose of a police investigation;
 - b) assisting in de-escalating a situation;
 - c) entering a situation where a person has verbalized their intent to file a complaint;
 - d) anticipating having to arrest or detain a person(s);
 - e) providing a person(s) with their rights under Section 10(a) and (b) of the *Charter of Rights*;
 - f) conducting a witness or suspect interview where the use of the interview facilities are not practical or favourable; and,
 - g) any circumstance where the member believes that the collection of otherwise imminently perishable evidence could be facilitated by turning on the BWC (e.g., a large blood stain on a sidewalk visible on arrival, but expected to diminish due to rain or other elements).
11. Members are not required to activate their BWC in exigent circumstances, until safe and practicable to do so.

12. When activating their BWC, members should, if practicable, state the location and nature of the incident that is being recorded.
13. Automatic activation sensors will be utilized and assessed as part of the BWC pilot program. For members who are equipped with automatic activation sensors, the BWC will activate anytime the firearm and/or conducted energy weapon (CEW) is drawn from its holster. The 'Axon Taser' is the brand of CEW used by the VPD.
14. If required for officer safety purposes, members can utilize the stealth mode on their BWC in the following situations:
 - a) where the blinking light or sounds may contribute to an escalation in violent behaviour of a member(s) of the public;
 - b) where the blinking light or sounds could give away the location of a member, where cover or concealment is necessary for their safety; or,
 - c) any other circumstance in which the blinking light or sounds could reduce the effectiveness of police tactics, investigative techniques, or put the member or the public in danger.
15. While the BWC is activated, members may, if practicable, verbalize elements of the situation that may not be readily visible (e.g., activity on the peripheral of the incident, smells indicated at a scene such as liquor or chemicals). This does not replace member note-taking requirements ([see Section 19 and 20 for note-taking and viewing BWC recordings](#))
16. If a member becomes aware of an incident that should have been recorded, or they accidentally switched the BWC to buffering mode, or the BWC is found to have malfunctioned prior to the conclusion of an incident, they should articulate the details in a General Occurrence (GO) report or in their notebook within 12 hours of the end of their shift.

Decision to Switch to Buffering Mode

17. The BWC should be left on continuously without interruption. However, a member should switch to buffering mode (i.e., not recording) when the member:
 - a) determines the incident has concluded;
 - b) becomes aware that a recording is in violation of a prohibited action listed in these guidelines;
 - c) has a reasonable belief that recording is likely to compromise police tactical procedures or public safety or inhibit their ability to gather information (e.g., a victim or witness is reluctant to cooperate while a BWC is recording);

- d) enters a healthcare facility when there is no anticipation of violence or aggression while waiting for service or transfer of custody, in order to prevent indiscriminate recording of healthcare information and treatment; or
 - e) is directed to do so by a supervisor based on the factors set out above.
18. If a decision has been made to switch to buffering mode, in consideration of the above noted circumstances, they should articulate the details in a GO report or in their notebook within 12 hours of the end of their shift.

Post Deployment Responsibilities for BWCs

19. At the end of shift, members with a BWC should:
- a) confirm the BWC is in buffering mode;
 - b) inspect the BWC for any visible defects that may impair its operation;
 - c) if any malfunctions or defects are observed, document in an email to the BWC Coordinator;
 - d) ensure the BWC is properly seated in the docking cradle; and,
 - e) ensure all recordings are securely uploaded, tagged and documented in Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS).

Viewing BWC Recordings

20. Members shall, as soon as practicable, make contemporaneous notes of all incidents and ensure they write notes and GO reports in accordance with [RPM Section 1.16.4 Police Notes and Notebooks](#).
21. BWC recording of an incident can be reviewed after a member's contemporaneous notes have been completed.
22. Where there are circumstances that viewing the recording will compromise an investigation (e.g., disclosure of sensitive information, external police agency, or Independent Investigations Office investigations), the member should advise their supervisor, and await further direction before taking any action.
23. Members and civilian professionals should ensure that viewing a BWC recording is restricted to the following:
- a) for investigative purposes;
 - b) for training purposes;
 - c) in accordance with [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards - 4.2.1 Body Worn Cameras](#); and,
 - d) in accordance with all applicable laws, and VPD guidelines and policies.

Independent Investigations Office of BC (IIO)

24. If a member wearing a BWC is involved in an incident where the IIO asserts jurisdiction, the member should advise their supervisor, and await further direction before taking any action.
25. In all cases where IIO has jurisdiction, involved officers (including subject and witness officers) should not review any records of the incident without permission from the VPD IIO Liaison Officer.

Prohibited Actions

26. Members shall not:

- a) record any activity unless for the purpose of law enforcement;
- b) use a BWC for continuous or indiscriminate recordings, or routine interactions with the public;
deliberately cover the BWC camera lens while activated;
- c) disseminate images or recordings to any person or entity unless required by their duties and authorized by law; or,
- d) delete or alter a BWC recording.

27. If a member makes an unintentional BWC recording they shall:

- a) switch the BWC to buffering mode;
- b) document the details in their notebook;
- c) advise their supervisor; and,
- d) advise the BWC Coordinator by e-mail.

28. When a member has become aware that an interaction with a confidential informant has been recorded, the Source Handling Unit shall be contacted as soon as practicable to minimize the risk of the inadvertent disclosure and identification of the confidential informant.

Privacy Considerations

29. In circumstances listed in Section 10 where discretionary recording is applied, members should, prior to activating a BWC, consider circumstances of possible heightened privacy concerns, and balance them with the objectives of BWC use (strengthening public safety, enhancing transparency and trust, enhancing accountability) in the following situations:
 - a) being in a dwelling house;

- b) exposure to private health information and/or medical treatment being received;
- c) being in a law office;
- d) being in a place of worship;
- e) individuals being nude or having exposed private body areas;
- f) children or youth being:
 - i. present;
 - ii. victims; or,
 - iii. the subject of an investigation; and,
- g) victims and/or witnesses being reluctant to cooperate when the BWC is activated, or requesting that members do not record in a sensitive situation.

Loss, Theft or Damage

30. If a BWC is lost, stolen, or damaged members shall:

- a) notify their supervisor and the supervisor must notify the BWC Coordinator, as soon as practicable (see [VPD Regulations & Procedural Manual Section 5.2.1 Damage to Department or Private Property](#)); and,
- b) notify the on-duty Duty Officer if their BWC is lost or suspected stolen in another jurisdiction.

31. If a BWC is lost, stolen or damaged the BWC Coordinator shall:

- a) Notify the Information and Privacy Unit (IPU) as soon as practicable.

Evidence Management

32. Members should document when a BWC video recording was made in the following manner:

- a) in the GO report, when one is generated; and,
- b) in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) clearance notes when a call is generated but no GO is written.

33. In every instance where a Report to Crown Counsel (RTCC) is submitted, the member should include the following in their evidence:

- a) a copy of all BWC recordings related to the incident;
- b) an audio transcript of all BWC recordings related to the incident;
- c) documentation of any disclosure concerns;
- d) documentation of all BWC recordings in the 'Attachments List'; and,
- e) if necessary, add an addendum to the notes of the GO Report.

BWC Recording Transcripts

34. When an individual(s) is arrested and transcripts are required for BWC recordings, the following steps are required for each Crown Counsel charge approval process:
- a) for in-custody files, a concise summary of the recording with relevant time stamps must be provided;
 - b) for out-of-custody files, an un-proofed transcript must be provided; and,
 - c) once charge approval in Section 34 a) or b) is obtained, a member-proofed transcript of the recording must be provided within 30 days.
35. Identification of privileged material that requires vetting is the responsibility of the member operating the BWC. Where vetting/redaction is required, contact the BWC disclosure clerks.

Release of Recordings

36. BWC recordings may only be released in accordance with Part 2 or Part 3 criteria as set out in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*. Without limiting release circumstances, BWC recordings may be released in accordance with established criteria for prosecution purposes, in response to an access request for information, pursuant to judicial authorization, or in accordance with lawful authority for disclosure of personal information (e.g.; [Police Act](#)). Members shall refer to the BWC Coordinator or the Information and Privacy Unit to confirm their lawful authority to release BWC recordings.
37. When a BWC recording is requested in accordance with Part 2 of *FIPPA*, each request will be assessed based on all relevant information and considerations, including the presumption of non-disclosure of third party personal information, and possible harm to ongoing police investigations. Generally a BWC recording will not be disclosed under Part 2 of *FIPPA* while a police investigation is ongoing.

Retention of Recordings

38. BWC recordings will be automatically deleted after 13 months, unless retained as evidence in relation to an offence, or complaint, or for training purposes.
39. When required for an evidentiary purpose, the BWC recording will be retained in DEMS for the incident specific VPD PRIME retention period and deleted thereafter. Recordings that form part of an ongoing court case will be held until the conclusion of all court processes, regardless of their prescribed retention period.
40. BWC recordings may be kept and used for training purposes provided:

- a) the BWC recording is no longer required for an investigation or proceeding (e.g., criminal or disciplinary procedures);
- b) prior authorization has been obtained from the BWC Coordinator;
- c) all persons in the BWC recording have been anonymized or have provided written consent that the BWC recording may be used for training purposes; and,
- d) it is only retained for the duration that the recording remains relevant as a training aid.

41. When seeking consent in accordance with Section 40, the purpose for which the BWC recording is to be used, shall be explained in writing.

Compliance Review

42. The BWC Coordinator shall ensure that a compliance review of random samples of BWC recordings is conducted and reported on at the end of the pilot program, to assess compliance with these guidelines, in particular whether:

- a) sampled BWC recordings are in compliance with the [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards - 4.2.1 Body Worn Cameras](#);
- b) BWC recordings are securely stored;
- c) unauthorized viewing of BWC recordings has occurred; and,
- d) BWC recordings have been deleted as required by [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards - 4.2.1 Body Worn Cameras](#).

43. The BWC Coordinator shall maintain an automated and immutable record of all persons, dates and times when BWC recordings are accessed and what actions the user took.

44. Reviews will be conducted in accordance with [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards - 4.2.1 Body Worn Cameras](#).

REFERENCES

[RPM Section 1.9.20 Digital Recordings \(Images\) on Issued Electronic Devices](#)

[RPM Section 1.16.4 Police Notes and Notebooks](#)

[RPM Section 5.2.1 Damage to Department or Private Property](#)

[BC Provincial Policing Standards - 4.2.1 - Body Worn Cameras](#)

[BC Provincial Policing Standards - 6.1.1 - Promoting Unbiased Policing](#)