

## **Fort Collins Police Services Body Worn Camera (BWC) Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. What is a Body Worn Camera (BWC)?**

**A.** A BWC is a mobile camera worn by a Fort Collins Police Officer.

**Q. Why are officers wearing cameras?**

**A.** The cameras are worn for accountability and to gather evidence of the event that the officer is investigating. That evidence can be very helpful in a criminal case.

**Q. What do you mean by accountability?**

**A.** A BWC is an unbiased view of the event and can be replayed if there is a conflict over what happened. Experience has shown that individuals are more cordial when they are aware there is a camera present.

**Q. Can the officer tamper with the video?**

**A.** No. The system we use is specifically designed so that the individual officer cannot alter, delete or change his/her video.

**Q. What BWC system is Fort Collins Police Services using?**

**A.** Fort Collins Police Services uses the Taser Axon Flex camera system to capture the video and Taser's evidence.com product to manage the video that has been captured. You can view this product at: <http://www.taser.com/products/on-officer-video/axon-flex-on-officer-video>.

**Q. What is the policy for the use of the BWC?**

**A.** Fort Collins Police Services has a policy in place that directs the officers on when to activate the camera as well as how to handle the digital evidence that is collected. That policy can be found at: <http://www.fcgov.com/police/pdf/body-worn-camera-policy.pdf>.

**Q. Can I view the videos?**

**A.** Depends. All of the videos collected are covered under the rules of evidence as well as the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act. Release of the videos is handled by our Records Unit on a case by case basis.

**Q. How long are the videos retained?**

**A.** The Fort Collins Police Services policy on BWCs outlines the retention schedule for the videos captured by the officer. It is dependent on the type of video that was captured. Retentions can be extended if necessary. The retention schedule is outlined here: <http://www.fcgov.com/police/pdf/body-worn-camera-policy.pdf>.

**Q. What about my privacy?**

**A.** The courts have long held that an individual has no expectation of privacy in a

public place. It is also true that if an officer has a legal right to be somewhere he/she can also capture video. This does include private property. Concern for your privacy is also why we carefully guard the release of the captured video.

**Q. How do I know if I am being captured on video?**

**A.** The camera worn by officers is clearly visible to the public. If you are talking to an officer who is wearing a video camera you can assume he/she has activated the video. You may also ask the officer if his/her video is activated.

**Q. Can I ask the officer to turn off the video camera?**

**A.** You may certainly ask politely for the officer to turn off the video. They are not required to comply with your request and depending on the event may or may not deactivate the camera.

**Q. Where can I find out more about Fort Collins Police Services BWC Program?**

**A.** We have additional information on our web page located at:  
<http://www.fcgov.com/police/body-worn-cameras.php>

**Q. How many cameras does Fort Collins Police Service have deployed?**

**A.** There are currently 60 Axon Flex Body Worn Cameras deployed. They are primarily deployed with uniformed patrol officers.

**Q. How much did the Body Worn Camera system cost?**

**A.** Fort Collins Police Services paid \$181,300. That covers 5 years full warranty of 60 cameras and unlimited use of Evidence.com.