

LINCOLN POLICE

BODY WORN CAMERAS

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Policy (17.5.3) To control and maintain a state of operational readiness and safe utilization of cameras worn on the person of uniformed officers.

Purpose The purpose of this directive is to cover the following:

Equipment function	Activation and deactivation procedures
Operational readiness	Accountability
Data storage practices	

Description The Body Worn Camera (BWC) is a video and audio recording device that officers on patrol will wear during the tour of duty. The BWC manufacturer is Wolfcom and the models utilized are 3rd Eye and Vision.

Equipment Shall be stored at the police department in a location designated by the Chief of Police.
Shall be maintained in a state of operational readiness.
Will normally be assigned to individual officers.
May be reassigned to other Lincoln Police officers by a supervisor

Pre Shift Camera, wires, and connection ports will be examined for damage/wear
Ensure rechargeable battery is sufficiently charged
Officers using the 3rd Eye should connect to the portable radio at the beginning of shift
Confirm that the audio recording is not activated
Issues should be immediately reported to shift supervisor and logged

Initial Deployment Officers will receive an orientation and training session with the BWC prior to its use in the field. Officer will not utilize the BWC without the training.

Due to the differing physical characteristics of each officer, the BWC will be affixed on the uniform in a fashion and location so that it should remain attached under normal patrol activities. The location should also allow for an unobstructed view of the event.

Direct use

Once issued, the BWC should be worn by officers on patrol and activated, as outlined by policy.

The BWC will not be activated when there no legitimate law enforcement purpose.

This policy will in no way supersede officers utilizing officer safety practices which could include not activating the BWC. Additionally, it is recognized that a volatile or sudden incident may result in not having the BWC immediately activated. In these situations, the officer will activate the BWC at the earliest and reasonable time.

Only approved BWC's are permitted for use while acting in an official capacity

The recording should occur during all patrol related interactions with the public which include (but are not limited to) pedestrian and vehicle stops, dispatched calls for services, investigations, arrests, or other "officer viewed" events

The recording should occur at the earliest possible moment of an official contact. At the beginning of a contact in a private place, but after recording has been initiated, involved parties should be advised that they are being recorded.

If a person or persons, in a private place, refuse to be visually recorded than all recording will be stopped and the officer will proceed with the investigation without it. The only exception is when the officer reasonably believes that there is a direct threat to life or safety of the public or officer.

Video recording in a public area is not subject to privacy safeguards, as a result informing involved parties is recommended but not required.

If the emergency lights and/or siren are activated in a police vehicle, the BWC recording should be activated as soon as it can be done so safely.

Recording of an event or contact shall continue until the incident is resolved.

Officers will not record confidential informants or an undercover officer without their permission or prior authorization from a supervisor. Any officer that may potentially record law enforcement tactics or strategy will ensure that the BWC is not recording.

If the BWC is deactivated during an incident, the officer should (when reasonably feasible) announce that the BWC is being turned off and should indicate the same in the written report.

If the BWC has been deactivated and the official contact has become adversarial, the officer may reactivate the recording. However, the officer should inform the person that recording has commenced.

The BWC will not be used for Department Internal Investigations without the written consent of the officer involved and the written permission of the Chief of Police.

Reporting Use of the BWC will be identified in all reports when in use
Reports of incidents where video is stored will identify the existence of video
Issues with recording, down loading, or retrieving video will be identified.
List in report the down load identifier for saved incident on dedicated server

Video Storage At the end of each shift, dispatchers will download officers' cameras at the designated computer.
Recorded incidents will be cataloged by the video management software.
Videos not identified as being needed for an investigation or prosecution will be deleted from the computer after 30 days.
Videos involved in an investigation or prosecution will be transferred to a storage media and stored until the case has been completely resolved through the court, consistent with current laws and regulations of evidence destruction, videos will be deleted.
Officers may review videos to complete reports.
Videos may be utilized in training with permission from the Chief of Police or his designee.
Videos may NOT be utilized for private viewing or storage.

Camera Storage The BWC will be returned to its storage / charging location.
It will be attached to the device responsible for charging the internal battery.

Security of Media All media collected using the BWC system is considered a record of the Lincoln Police Department.
Accessing, copying or releasing of the media for anything other than official law enforcement use is prohibited.
Secondary recording (i.e.: cell phone recording of previously recorded incident) is prohibited.
Lincoln Police Department media shall not be released without permission for the Chief of Police or his designee.