

	TYPE OF DIRECTIVE LINE PROCEDURE	NUMBER LP-04-15 REV.
	SUBJECT BODY WORN CAMERAS	EFFECTIVE DATE 04/10/15
	REFERENCE LP-61	RESCINDS LP-04-15

PURPOSE

To establish procedures related to the use of a Body Worn Camera (BWC) and the management, storage, and retrieval of BWC recordings.

POLICY

The Body Worn Camera (BWC) is an audio and video recording system worn by officers and serves as an additional means of documenting incidents encountered by the officer in the course of his public safety duties. When activating a BWC, officers shall consider both the needs of public safety as well as the privacy and constitutional rights of individual citizens.

REGULATION

The Division will issue BWCs to only those officers who have been properly trained on their operation and the applicable policies governing their use. Officers are permitted to use only Division-issued BWCs to capture “point of view” audio and video recordings.

PROCEDURES

I. UNIFORM AND MAINTENANCE

- A. Officers assigned a BWC shall wear them while working in uniform, in both on-duty and off-duty capacities.
- B. Officers shall wear the BWC on their strong (gun hand) side mounted in one of the Division-approved methods, utilizing only the mounting options provided by the manufacturer. Officers are responsible for ensuring the BWC remains in a position that allows the BWC to record an encounter from the officer’s “point of view.”
- C. Officers are responsible for the use and maintenance of the BWC and bring apparent problems with the equipment to the attention of a supervisor immediately. Officers shall not attempt to fix a BWC suspected of malfunctioning.

II. ACTIVATION

- A. When reasonable, practicable, and safe to do so, officers should advise citizens that the encounter is being recorded by a BWC.
- B. The BWC shall be activated when an officer’s contact with a citizen involves actual or potential violations of law, actual or potential suspect(s), or actual or potential verbally or physically aggressive behavior. Examples of circumstances when the BWC shall be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

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1. Traffic stops;
 2. Calls involving suspicious vehicles or person;
 3. Arrests; and/or
 4. Calls involving mental health consumers.
- C. If not already activated, the BWC shall be activated to record any encounter that becomes adversarial after initial contact or in any situation that the officer believes its use would be appropriate to document the encounter.
- D. Once the BWC is activated, it shall remain activated until:
1. The conclusion of the officer's involvement in that event;
 2. The event becomes predominately investigative in nature (for example, the incident has transitioned from an initial or tactical response into a controlled and orderly investigation);
 3. An officer reasonably believes that doing so will not result in the loss of critical documentary information; or
 4. When directed to do so by a supervisor.

III. RESTRICTIONS

- A. BWCs shall be used only for a legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- B. BWCs shall not be used in the following situations:
1. To record county employees, including other Division members, unless taking law enforcement action consistent with Section II;
 2. To record events in bathrooms, locker rooms, or other places where there is an expectation of privacy unless taking law enforcement action;
 3. While interacting with known confidential informants or undercover officers. In situations where the recording is of evidentiary value, an officer may position the BWC in a manner to capture an audio recording of the event but not to record video of the informant or undercover officer;
 4. To record personal activity;
 5. During tactical planning discussions; and/or
 6. In court, *officers shall leave the BWC in their vehicle.*
- C. Unless otherwise required by Section II, officers should not use a BWC to record an encounter with a citizen that is non-confrontational and routine unless an officer has an articulable reason for activating the BWC during that encounter.

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IV. EVIDENCE

- A. A BWC's audio and video recordings are treated as evidence in a criminal investigation and shall not be disseminated outside of the Division, County Attorney's Office, or Commonwealth Attorney's Office without prior approval by the Chief of Police or his designee.
- B. No officer shall attempt to erase, edit or otherwise alter any data captured by a BWC.

V. ACCESS AND RETENTION

- A. The Body Worn Camera (BWC) and all video files are the property of the Henrico County Police Division and are to be used for official purposes only.
- B. All BWC recordings shall be uploaded to Evidence.com. Docking stations are located in each of the three Patrol Stations. Officers shall upload all BWC recordings prior to their next tour of duty utilizing the docking stations, ideally leaving the camera docked between shifts. The docking station will automatically upload all data.
- C. All uploaded BWC recordings shall be classified as either "Evidentiary" or "Uncategorized."

- 1. "Evidentiary" Recording - Contain documentation that can be used in a criminal investigation or captures a confrontational encounter between an officer and a citizen. "Evidentiary" video will be tagged with the corresponding ICR or CAD number in the ID field and the category set as "Evidentiary" once uploaded to Evidence.com in the below format.

ID example for the ICR#: 150309999

ID example for the CAD#: C9999 or M9999

- 2. "Uncategorized" Recording- Does not contain documentation to be used as evidence and captures a routine or non-confrontational encounter.
- D. Unless transferred to Division databases under Section V.E., the retention period by Evidence.com for BWC recordings shall be as follows:
 - 1. "Uncategorized" recordings will be retained by Evidence.com for 90-days.
 - 2. "Evidentiary" recordings will be retained by Evidence.com for 180 days.
- E. Transfer to ADAMS or other Division [databases].
 - 1. Any "Evidentiary" recording needed beyond 180 days for the prosecution of a criminal or traffic case shall be transferred into ADAMS by the officer whose BWC captured the recording in accordance with LP-61.
 - 2. All BWC recordings associated with a response to resistance shall be transferred

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into ADAMS upon receipt of a HCPD-340, Response to Resistance After-Action Report, by the Commander, Quality Assurance.

3. All BWC recordings associated with any Internal Affairs investigation or complaint shall be tagged as “Evidentiary” and transferred into IAPro by Internal Affairs.
- F. Access to Recordings: Whether stored in Evidence.com, ADAMS or other Division databases, access to BWC recordings is limited to law enforcement or other Division-approved purposes only. Review of any BWC recording shall be performed only on Division equipment. Officers shall not:
1. View any BWC recording for anything other than approved Division purposes;
 2. Copy, download or convert any BWC recording for any type of personal use; or
 3. Sync personal devices to save BWC recordings.

VI. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Upon receiving notification of any damage or malfunction of a BWC, the supervisor will remove the BWC from service and send an email to the BWC email group at bwc@pdredmine.henrico.us.
- B. Supervisors shall review BWC recordings relating to an incident for which a Response to Resistance After-Action Report (HCPD-340) was completed by an officer.
- C. The Commander, Quality Assurance shall periodically conduct a random review of BWC recordings to assess the overall performance of the BWC equipment.

By Order of:

Douglas A. Middleton
Chief of Police