



**NYPD**  
New York City Police Department

**P** Policing  
Project  
NYU School of Law

The NYPD will soon begin a 1,000-camera pilot of its body-worn camera program in several precincts throughout the city and is seeking public input on the policy that will determine how cameras will be used.

Please take this brief questionnaire to share your views on some of the key policy questions around body-worn cameras. A brief summary of the NYPD's proposed policy is attached at the end.

If you have any additional thoughts or concerns in response to any of the questions, please use the space at the end of the questionnaire to share them with the NYPD.

**All responses are completely anonymous. If there is any question that you do not wish to answer you may simply skip to the next.**

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1. Are you a New York City resident?

- Yes
- No

2. Do you live in a New York Housing Authority (NYCHA) or Trespass Affidavit Program (TAP) building?

- Yes, NYCHA
- Yes, TAP
- No
- I'm not sure

3. Do you attend school or work in New York City?

- Yes
- No

4. New York City police officers should use body-worn cameras.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

5. Will use of body-worn cameras cause the following to improve or worsen?

(a) Police-community relations and public trust

- Improve
- Worsen
- No Change

(b) Public safety

- Improve
- Worsen
- No Change

(c) Officer safety

- Improve
- Worsen
- No Change

(d) The conduct of members of the public when interacting with officers

- Improve
- Worsen
- No Change

(e) The conduct of officers in interacting with members of the public

- Improve
- Worsen
- No Change

6. Officers should be required to use body-worn cameras to record (fill in circles for all that apply):

- Arrests
- Searches within the home
- Searches on the street
- Vertical patrols of public housing buildings (NYCHA)
- Uses of force
- Pedestrian stops/frisks
- Traffic stops
- Witness interviews
- Any time an officer approaches someone as part of investigating criminal activity
- Any time an officer approaches someone to ask a question
- Any interactions with members of the public

7. I would feel comfortable reporting a crime to an officer who is recording with a body-worn camera.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

8. An officer who approaches a person in a public space like a store or on the sidewalk should be required to tell that person that the camera is recording:
- As soon as the officer approaches the person
  - As soon as possible, without compromising officer safety or other important law enforcement interests
  - Never
  - No opinion
9. An officer who enters a person's home should be required to tell that person that the camera is recording:
- As soon as the officer enters
  - As soon as possible, without compromising officer safety or other important law enforcement interests
  - Never
  - No opinion
10. If a person asks an officer to turn off a camera, the officer should:
- Immediately turn off the camera
  - Be allowed to keep the camera on for the officer's own safety or that of others
  - Be allowed to keep it on if necessary to record evidence
  - Be allowed to keep it on both for the officer's and others' safety and to record evidence
  - No opinion
11. If a person has an interaction with an officer wearing a body-worn camera, the NYPD should be required to show that person the footage upon request.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
12. An officer should be permitted to view a recording from his or her own body-worn camera:
- Anytime, including before writing a report or giving a sworn statement
  - Anytime, unless there is an incident involving the use of force, in which case the officer must first write a report
  - Only after first writing a report about the incident, whether or not there is a use of force by the officer
  - Never
  - No opinion

13. If a person has an interaction with an officer wearing a body-worn camera, and a news reporter or advocacy group requests the footage, the department should be required to give it to them.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
14. If a body-worn camera captures a high-profile incident of interest to the public, the department should make the footage public:
- As soon as possible
  - After it completes an internal investigation
  - At the end of any court case or judicial proceeding
  - Never
  - No opinion
15. Under the proposed policy, the NYPD will keep all video recordings for a minimum of 6 months. Certain videos must be kept longer:
- Arrest or Civilian Complaint must be kept until the case is over
  - Use of Force must be kept for 3 years
  - Adversarial police-citizen encounter must be kept for 18 months
  - Any other encounter (e.g. stop, witness interview) must be kept for 6 months

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about how long videos will be kept, please include them here:

**The following are some basic background and demographic questions.**

16. When was your most recent interaction with a New York City police officer?

- Within the past month (30 days)
- More than 1 month ago but within the last year
- More than 1 year ago but less than 5 years
- More than 5 years
- Never

17. I believe that NYPD officers treat members of the public with courteousness and respect:

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

18. Which borough do you live in?

- Brooklyn
- Bronx
- Manhattan
- Queens
- Staten Island

19. Which precinct do you live in (if you know)? \_\_\_\_\_

20. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

21. How old are you?

- Under 13
- 13-17
- 18-25
- 26-34
- 35-54
- 55-64
- 65 or over

22. What is your race?

- White
- Black
- White Hispanic
- Black Hispanic
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Middle Eastern/Southwest Asian
- Other

23. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

24. If you have any additional comments, questions, or concerns about the NYPD's proposed use of body-worn cameras, please include them here:

**Please do not write below this line**

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Paper Survey Number \_\_\_\_\_

## **NYPD Body-Worn Camera Proposed Policy: Fact Sheet**

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) plans to assign approximately 1,000 body-worn cameras to officers in certain precincts throughout the city. This is part of a one-year pilot program to determine whether body-worn cameras can help to encourage lawful and respectful police-citizen interactions and improve both officer and public safety.

This fact sheet summarizes the NYPD's proposed policy on body-worn cameras. It addresses: (1) activation; (2) notification; (3) deactivation; (4) retention; and (5) public access.

The full proposed policy is available at [www.nypdbwc.org](http://www.nypdbwc.org).

### **Activation: When Are Officers Required to Record?**

Under the NYPD's proposed policy, officers **must** record:

- Any use of force.
- All arrests, summonses, searches of persons and property, and any stop or frisk.
- When responding to a crime in progress.
- When patrolling inside a New York Housing Authority (NYCHA) building, or a building enrolled in the Trespass Affidavit Program (TAP).
- When transporting a prisoner or any person in police custody to a police station, hospital, or jail.
- When interacting with someone who may be experiencing an emotional disturbance.

Officers **may** also record anytime they think it would be useful to do so.

Officers **may not** record in the following situations:

- Internal police matters, e.g. staff meetings, trainings, and administrative activities.
- Sensitive police-citizen encounters, e.g. when speaking with a confidential informant, interviewing a victim of a sex crime, or conducting a strip search.
- Inside courthouses or medical facilities.
- At public protests or demonstrations.

### **Notification: Will Officers Tell Citizens That a Camera is Recording?**

Whenever it is safe and practical to do so, officers are encouraged (but not required) to tell members of the public when they are being recorded. However, officers do not need a person's permission to start or continue recording.



## **Deactivation: When Can Officers Turn the Camera Off?**

Once an officer turns the camera on, the officer must continue to record until the incident is over.

If a member of the public asks the officer to turn off the camera, the officer is allowed to do so. However, if the officer does not think it is safe or advisable to stop recording, the officer does not have to agree to such a request and can keep recording.

## **Retention: How Long Will the NYPD Keep Recordings?**

The NYPD will keep all video recordings for a minimum of **6 months**. Certain videos will be kept longer:

- Use of force: 3 years
- Any adversarial police-citizen encounter: 18 months
- Video related to a CCRB complaint: 18 months
- Arrest: Until the case is over
- Video related to an ongoing criminal or civil case: until the case is over
- Evidence of a felony (with no arrest made): 5 years
- Evidence of a misdemeanor (with no arrest made): 3 years
- Any other encounter (e.g. stop, witness interview): 6 months

## **Access: Who Gets to See the Videos?**

### **Officers:**

- Officers will be allowed to view their own body-worn camera recordings.
- If a body-worn camera captures a significant use of force, the officer involved will be allowed to look at the video before making a sworn statement, but only with supervisor approval.
- Note: Police Officers will not be able to edit or delete footage from body-worn cameras.

### **Members of the Public:**

- Freedom of Information Law: Members of the public will be able to request video from NYPD using the Freedom of Information Law. NYPD will provide video to the extent allowed by law.
- Members of the public generally will be allowed to view video recordings of an incident before making a formal complaint against an officer.
- However, if the video captures evidence related to a criminal case, the NYPD will turn the video over to the prosecutor's office. Prosecutors will provide video to the defendant in accordance with criminal discovery laws.
- If a camera records a high-profile incident—such as an officer-involved shooting—the NYPD will work with the Attorney General or District Attorney to decide whether it is possible to make the video public without harming a criminal investigation or interfering with a person's right to a fair trial.