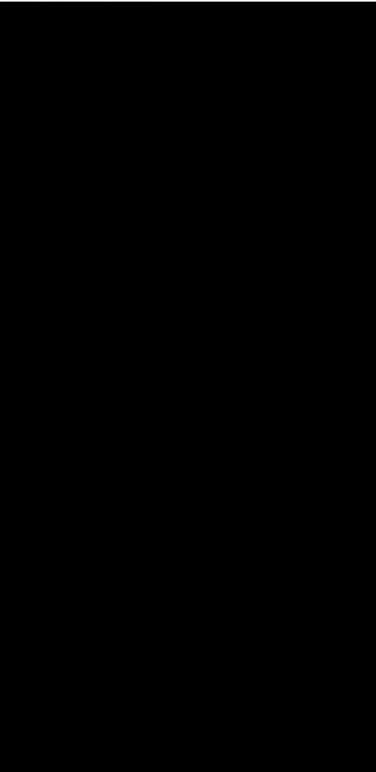


# Body Worn Camera Policy COMMENTS:

Listening Session #1 East High 6/16/21 @ 1800

List and order of speakers from the 6/17/21 On Body Camera Listening Session:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5
- 6
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19



18 05 15 people in attendance

18:15 - 20 people

A few more people trickled in during the event

## SPEAKERS



Representing Ak Black Caucus: Had a question about the intent of the draft and how the public could weigh in if they could not attend Chief McCoy looking for input in the policy and there will be additional public events and feedback will be accepted electronically and through the website



Item ID4: Regarding the release of video if there are pending criminal charges. - Not okay. Recommends the release within 5 days citing the availability of redaction to remove sensitive information.



Representing ABC Justice Committee he's not part of the ACLU but believes APD should study and incorporate as many of their recommendations as possible into the policy because of their review and analysis.

██████████  
Did not have any comments regarding the policy only asked for a show of hands of people who believed APD would release footage that showed officers in a bad light. A few hands raised.

██████████  
Public safety background: Did not have any comments regarding the policy but was complimentary to APD and suggested to others that officers deserved the benefit of the doubt and suggested people take ride alongs to really see what officers deal with.

██████████  
Shared negative 1st experience with APD as a teenager  
Doesn't believe cameras should be used at all during 1st Amendment events  
Video Loss of Life and Grievous Harm should be release in a timely manner  
It's for the people not APD

██████████  
Need cameras on ALL the time. Make sure all verbiage is understandable

██████████  
Not appropriate for officers to review footage before writing their report, only after If there is a discrepancy, then it needs to be investigated.  
If the video is interrupted there needs to be a higher bar set for reasoning besides writing it in the report.

██████████  
Feels like the videos could be used as a mental health tool.

██████████  
Concerned about the security of the video in the cloud. Doesn't think it should be on a computer that has access to the internet.

██████████  
Representing ABC: Item I. re: Cloud based server for storage: What is the retention policy of video in the cloud?

B7: Civilians not to see footage on scene: advocated for the creation of the Police Advisory Committee made up of civilians who should be allowed to see video before police review

B12: There should be no permission to turn the camera on and off. Should be on all the time when dealing with the public.

D4: The reason we need to see it is so we can see what is happening.

██████████  
Asked a very confusing question to the panel and audience about BWC. There needs to be a lot of restrictions and camera angles

Has concerns about what the media will do with video clips if allowed to have them

Has reservations about how footage will be used as evidence.

██████████  
If we had already started using BWC maybe police would have taken a breath and thought before shooting Daelyn.

[REDACTED]

The draft doesn't have clear standards when they are supposed to be on, the release, or review  
D4: concerned that footage could be held for a long time citing criminal charges pending.  
Public needs access to review - there should be independent review board so officers can be held  
accountable

[REDACTED]

Wants to make sure the language is clear, and the meaning can be conveyed across all levels.

Q Will cameras be used in partnership as with mental health task force/MIT/CIT thinks this is a good  
idea Will footage be included in an employee's Personnel file? If so, then it's not available to the public  
Doesn't like that.

This draft is an employee-based policy. It should be a public-based policy "what's in it for the public"  
Referenced a "Founding Committee" under a separate venue to be the voice of the people, not under  
any government.

[REDACTED]

On Duty Camera On

[REDACTED]

Suggests more spaces and ways for the community to be involved in this process. Zoom meeting. Will  
the questions and our draft revisions be public? How will the public be involved in creating the policy?  
What's the rest of the process look like?

[REDACTED]

Did not share any suggestions or comments about the policy.

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Form Name: APD Commendation, Suggestion and/or Complaint Form

Submission Time: June 22, 2021 7:38 pm

Browser: [REDACTED]

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Unique ID: [REDACTED]

Location:

**Submission Type:** Suggestion

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Phone (907) [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]@ak.net

Chief Ken McCoy

I appreciate your efforts to provided the public increased transparency into APD management and operations.  
And I think the APD has overall maintained a healthy relationship with the citizens it serves. So I offer  
these comments in hopes of helping the APD maintain and enhance its relationship with the citizens of  
Anchorage and succeed in its efforts to be transparent. Let me try to lay the groundwork for my comments.

In civilized countries (including the US) no police department personnel are authorized to act as judge, district attorney, jury and executioner. They are trained and authorized to make arrests. Police are authorized to protect their lives in making arrest. If they use lethal force for anything less than protecting their lives, they have overstepped their authorization and need to be investigated for the type of crime they just committed. Making arrest can undoubtedly be frustrating and maddened especially if the arrestee is resisting arrest. Police are armed to deal with these situations with less than lethal force, (tasers, additional officers, mace, etc). But use of excessive force is just that - excessive force and is a form of Assault. What has the public alarmed is there are recordings of police doing both unjustifiable executions without their lives in danger and responding to resisting arrest situations by excessive force. There are incidents of police unexplainably not turning on body cameras and then being involved in an indefensible use of lethal force or excessive force. This is what has led to mistrust of police. Although the public overall supports police, and can understand the stress and threat their jobs may involve at times, it is these on the record misuse of lethal force and excessive force that deservedly concern the public. The body camera is a tool that can keep produce evidence in an arrest for both officers and arrestees, it that defends their actions or provides evidence of their crime during an arrest. But to do this, the use of body cams needs to be consistent. And use will not be consistent unless the APD policies are clear and officers have clear direction on when they must be used. I don't believe APD's draft policy provides clear directions to officers on when they are expected to use the cameras. So there will be situational uses, and the cameras will not help maintain the generally good relationship APD has with the community they serve. I described my concerns in a Letter to the Editor of the Anchorage Daily News published June 13, 2012.

The policy APD proposed states " It shall be the policy of the Anchorage Police Department that officers shall activate their body-worn camera when such use is appropriate to the proper performance of his or her official duties, where the recordings are consistent with this policy and law. The Anchorage Police Department will utilize the \_\_\_\_\_ camera system." (Under lining added) "When such use is appropriate" does not provide Officers clear direction on when the cameras should be used and when not using them is authorized. I don't think the public was expecting such a vague threshold for camera use when it authorized expenditure for the body cameras. . If the intent of body cameras is to assure documented conduct between police and the public, it needs to provide clear direction to officers when they should use the camera. An example of a clear policy would be " It shall be the policy of the Anchorage Police Department that officers shall activate their body-worn camera when exiting the vehicle after use of the siren to apprehend and confront any illegal or suspected illegal behavior". Or how about "It shall be the policy of the Anchorage Police Department that officers shall activate their body-worn camera when exiting the vehicle in anticipation of making an arrest, issuing a citation, or initiating an investigation that could lead to citation of arrest." The Officer (and public) then know that when sirens are used, an officer will be using a camera to document events when he/she leaves the patrol car. Or when officers arrive after someone commits a crime, their interaction with the police will be documented. APD Management and Officers may know of better wording of a policy that clearly communicates to Officers and public when police interactions with public will be documented by camera. But that's the goal - clear direction the public and APD understand. The cost is nil for collecting camera data that documents the lack of wrong doing. In fact, that data helps the APD defend its generally well thought of interaction with the public. It would create a public relations tool for the APD, documenting the APD's appropriate behavior. It would provide irrefutable evidence of resistance of arrest, drunk driving field sobriety tests, etc. making conviction following arrest much more efficient and consistent. It would protect Officers from allegations of wrong doing when they have not exceeded their legal authorities, It would give APD management a measurable standard to judge retention of officers. It would give APD a great training tool. Without a clear policy of when camera use is

required, the APD will not reap any of these benefits and the citizens of Anchorage will not get the benefit of the body camera's it has a right to expect of the APD

Sincerely

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Dear Chief McCoy and APD Community Relations,

I was disappointed to have missed the listening session last night that was advertised from 6 to 8 pm but ended much earlier. I showed up at just after 7 pm. I hope you can accept my comments in written form and take them into consideration.

[Redacted] an Alaska Native corporation established in 1973 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Azachorok Incorporated is headquartered in Anchorage and represents several hundred shareholders who reside across Alaska. 20% of our shareholders live in Anchorage and I think it is our duty to comment on the issue of body cameras.

Body cameras can be greatly beneficial for both the public and police department if only used in the right way and with the right kind of oversight. Please consider the following points and changes to Policy PI 3.10.110 - Body Worn Cameras DRAFT:

- A section should be added to require that a third-party citizen group have oversight over how the body camera footage is used and other details that affect the public.
- Number 4 of your 'Objectives' in your policy should be removed. Officers should not have the chance to informally view their own footage before legal proceedings to get their 'story straight'. The officer should have the opportunity to view footage, only after it has been released to the public and the citizen or citizen's family as well.
- Number 7 under operational use should add language that says: either the officer or civilians can see the footage at the scene of a crime. Officers should be included.
- Number 8 under operational use should include severe penalties if officers intentionally stop a recording or try to tamper with or delete a recording. These penalties should include probation, leave without pay, and termination of employment if a pattern is identified.
- Section D. 1. Should be deleted and removed entirely from the policy. No officer should have the opportunity to review footage without that footage first being made public in its entirety.

All in all, body cameras should be used to serve the public and public interest and not just as a public relations tool for the department or for officers gaining an advantage with the legal system by seeing the footage first and informally.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Re: Anchorage Police Department body worn camera policy**

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date: July 6, 2021**

As the Anchorage Police Department develops the policy for its body-worn camera program, it must ensure that the policy will deliver accountability and transparency. It should be a tool for greater public oversight of law enforcement, especially when force is used, and engender greater trust between the police and the Anchorage community. It should also be a policy that prioritizes implementation and cost. To that end, in this memo we offer five primary policy areas where there is the greatest need for improvement in the APD's latest draft policy. Following these descriptions is a section-by-section list of language recommendations.

**1. APD's policy must ensure the timely public release of body camera footage in showing police use of force or alleged police misconduct.**

Incidents in which officers use force or where misconduct is alleged are central to accountability and transparency. But the APD's draft policy does not describe how it will release footage in these cases, and would make it impossible to see footage where an officer's conduct may be criminal. If APD is allowed to withhold critical footage, and release only footage that shows officers in a favorable light, then it will undercut the extent to which body cameras are a tool for transparency and accountability.

This type of footage makes up a small percentage of all body-worn camera footage. But it is critical for helping the public determine if the way APD officers go about their jobs is effective, appropriate, and in the public's interest. And releasing body camera footage can be done in a way that ensures people's due process and privacy rights, while increasing public trust.

**2. Create clear rules for when officers turn cameras on and off.**

It's in the best interest of the public and officers to create a simple, clear framework for when to operate cameras, so officers have fewer steps to think through and cannot be blamed for making the wrong call. Our approach, which is mirrored in policies across the country, is to require officers to activate the audio and video recording functions of their cameras when responding to a call for service, or at the outset of any other law enforcement or investigative encounter with a member of the public. To APD's credit, the latest version of their draft policy includes new language along these lines - that "officers shall record all calls for service or when initiating an encounter with the public unless it is unsafe, impossible, or impractical to do so." But the policy should be stronger and cleaner.

**3. Prohibit officers from reviewing footage of videos showing any use of force before completing initial casework.**

The initial reports, statements, and interviews that police routinely complete after an incident are the only chance for the public, police department, and legal system to learn about the officer's first-hand experience of an incident. Reviewing footage prior to filling out reports runs the risk of changing the officer's perception, undermining the legitimacy of investigations, and allows officers to align their statements and reports with video.

footage. In the worst cases, it enables outright lying. The APD's draft policy does prohibit officers from reviewing or copying footage in some critical circumstances. But the policy should be made stronger.

#### **4. Create clear rules for how APD will retain video.**

It is in the interest of both the public and the APD to establish clear rules for how it will retain video, and for how long. Storing video properly and for an adequate amount of time is important for fulfilling the transparency and accountability goals of the body worn camera program. When video captures a use of force or misconduct, we need to be sure the video has not been deleted or purged. It is also important to keep video for an adequate amount of time in other contexts — such as when an officer asserts that it holds evidentiary or exculpatory value. But it's also important to set limits on how long video may be retained before it is deleted, because of the high cost of storing video and because of privacy. APD's policy can strike this balance.

#### **5. Ban the use of facial recognition technology.**

Facial recognition is less accurate in identifying faces of color, of women, or younger and older persons, and of transgender/non-binary people. The stakes for being misidentified by facial recognition are incredibly high. If a person is falsely arrested because of misidentification, they may experience personal trauma and harm, or lose or be denied a job, among other consequences. Facial recognition technology also enables government surveillance. If an APD officer filmed a rally or protest, then facial recognition technology would allow the department to possess a record of who was there without suspicion or justification. APD has not indicated whether or not it uses facial recognition technology, but can establish a prohibition in this policy.

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#### **PSAC Meeting Notes: 8/18/21**

- PSAC want to have a line-by-line discussion of the second draft once it's published
  - Given COVID, may be good to do it via Teams
- Positive feedback from PSAC on the process
- Interested in the timeline on the second draft being published
- Would like the language to be tweaked for the public to understand better
  - Too legal/too police speak
  - Break it down better
  - Language translation (English to Spanish?)
  - Facts page
- What are the legal language barriers we are encountering?
- ABC August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting/ZOOM recording. Lots of comments. Could be valuable if reviewed
- Deadline for comments needed (30 days, 60 days...etc.)
- Revised policy includes explanations on why the changes were made or weren't made

## Draft Policy Feedback via website - 10/6 - 11/6

10/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]@aol.com

Subject: Support BCP Draft

**Message:** BWC protects the public and officers. I witnessed an officer lying in court under oath. My husband was accused of a crime and the officer came to our home to get a statement that I was in the room for and heard everything first hand. In court the officer lied and we were blind sided by this. A recorded record of the event would have guaranteed the truth. I learned that day to never trust an officer after believing all my life up to that point that an officer was beyond reproach. My father was in law enforcement from age 19 until he retired and I was raised to believe police officers were honest. The BWC will insure that they really are

10/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@alaskan.com

Subject: BWC Policy

**Message:** Thank you for the public review of our APD BWC policy. Looks great. It will be good for all of us. Please make a change, typo in 1 B 4 Officers to Officers

10/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Subject: Additions

**Message:** I believe that the reasoning behind deleting or augmenting any video footage should be made public information. It says that it will be documented by a supervisor, but I believe that documentation should be public too.

10/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Subject: Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

**Message:** As someone who has watched on television, the valuable impact the Body Worn Police Camera can have on understanding what actually happened during an arrest, I feel the camera should never be turned off at this time & would question the motive of the officer doing so. That said, it is also important to take into consideration the use of the camera when talking to a victim. As one of the founders of S.T.A.R., I have some background knowledge in this area I would like to share, for whatever it's worth. The filming of someone who has just been through one of the most invasive & brutal experiences there is, this might be even more traumatizing but if done with compassion & patience, possibly by a female officer or with the assistance of someone from S.T.A.R., filming would have several benefits. How the victim was treated could easily be proven & information could be referred to during trial but it must have permission of the victim for this. The release of anything from any part of a filed victim should be in the control of the victim, this is most important. I feel the use of body



cameras are a great idea but I do agree that restrictions are needed but those should not be left to the officers wearing them Thank you for listening to my input & if you would like to discuss this further, my phone number is

[REDACTED]

-----  
**10/7/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Police the police

**Message:** You should all be wearing body cams as a form of accountability. Officers have become complacent with just the audio recording and it is easy to manipulate. The BWC are a step toward better ensuring the safety of the citizens the officers interact with. You all have been out of control with your brutalization of citizens and lack of accountability for your actions and behaviors. The reality is that you will manipulate or "disappear" anything that doesn't align with your narrative or attempts at justification but it is a step toward making you think twice before you do harm to those you are supposed to be serving

**10/7/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Inadequate

**Message:** This policy is inadequate and aims to allow for loopholes and a lack of accountability. The body cam should be recording for the entire duration of any and all interactions with citizens Leaving it to the officer's discretion will result in abuse and allow the officer the ability to switch off or choose to engage their camera in situations in which they intend to do harm, know their behaviors aren't up to par, etc. I've witnessed the outrageous and abusive tactics of APD officers including pointing their cars away from the scene and switching off recordings when brutalizing and abusing citizens. RECORD IT ALL ALL OF THE TIME

-----  
**10/8/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

**Message:** Release to public requirements MUST be included with the policy. If my tax dollars are going to pay for their purchase and they are being used for accountability then do it right. Otherwise it's a waste of time and money. Officers should NOT be able to mute the audio on their cameras when they are in discussion with each other as this throws accountability out the window as far as I'm concerned Information such as personal identifying information can be redacted/muted when the video is released

-----  
**10/16/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Pro Body Cameras

**Message:** This is a step in the right direction It will help our community as well as those who serve it

10/17/21

Name [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Subject: BWC Draft Policy

**Message:** APD has earned my trust. When I have a problem and call 911, I certainly appreciate APD's timely response. But people, both police and citizens, are human and make mistakes; that's why I support the use of body cams and the release of videos. Both citizens and police must be accountable. That means you must release videos, as requested by those involved and, indeed, the general public. We have the right to be assured that all is well. Or that appropriate action is taken when needed.

Anchorage voted to pay for body cams. The policy as proposed fails to deliver as promised.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

-----  
10/19/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Subject: Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

**Message:** I applaud the adoption of body worn cameras. I hope this is embraced by the local police community as a positive thing, because BWCs not only create improved police accountability, but they also provide evidence that will defend officers from complaints and accusations, when the officers are recorded behaving properly. Although surely not feasible on Day One, I would love to see BWCs be used to randomly record for internal auditing purposes, in instances when not manually turned on. This would encourage officers to be sure to always turn on the BWCs when they are supposed to, because failure to do so might be captured in an audit (and if an officer fails to turn the BWC on, perhaps they are engaging in inappropriate or unprofessional behavior, and this would also be captured in the audit).

-----  
10/19/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Please wear them and ensure they are turned on. Unless cops are breaking the law this benefits everyone.

**Message:** Please wear them and ensure they are turned on. Unless cops are breaking the law this benefits everyone.

-----  
10/25/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Subject: protecting the public from police

**Message:** Body Cameras would have shown me being accosted by officer Nathan Lewis That would have been very helpful in the Internal Affairs investigation Body cameras would have been helpful in proving that Sgt K.Bushue violated my due process rights by not providing due diligence by "Ignoring Alaska Native" witnesses whom witnessed the assault on me by Lewis and only interviewing Caucasians. Body cameras would have caught all this.

Alaska Natives are brutalized daily by APD personnel. Internal affairs would be forced to come out of the darkness of corruption and coverup.Body Cameras I feel aren't just wise, but are necessary. APD stopped being about justice long ago, and are now a police organization for and about the police

Body cameras must be implemented

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**10/25/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

**Message:** Love the idea of implementing Body Worn Cameras in the department It would be a very useful tool for both officers and citizens by improving accountability, reducing the number of complaints/allegations against police officers, and reducing criminal justice costs due to an increase in early guilty pleas.

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**10/28/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gci.net

**Subject:** Body cameras

**Message:** Good for protecting police officers and civilians

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**11/5/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

**Message** I believe that police worn body cameras provide benefit and added protections for the Anchorage Police Department as well as for the city's population.

**11/5/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@outlook.com

**Subject:** Yes for Body Worn Camera

**Message:** I believe there is a good side allowing those in the wrong to be held accountable for their actions I've been on 4 ride alongs in the past with APD therefore I have been able to see firsthand what it is like to work for

Anchorage Police Department out in the public with various different situations I've also had a career Corrections Officer for 8 years back in Michigan as well I know the struggle that law enforcement tends to face with members of the community that we are held to a higher standard than others and yet there will always be those few crooked ones.

The fact that things have come down to this in society is sad but unfortunately things have changed over the years and in other cases not much as with the George Floyd incident that occurred.

I hope this helps!

-----  
**11/6/21**

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**Subject:** Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

**Message** Dear Chief McCoy,

Please accept the following comments regarding APD's draft body-worn cameras policy. I have reviewed the three draft policies that APD has published to date, i.e., versions released in February 2021, June 2021, and October 2021. I have also attended the listening sessions and meetings of the Anchorage Public Safety Advisory Commission and Anchorage Assembly Public Safety Committee where the draft policies were discussed. All the public meetings were sparsely attended, but most commenters expressed their frustration with the draft policies, particularly the lack of clarity for why APD adopted the policies that it did APD has not adequately explained its policies or the justifications for the policies. APD should explain its reasoning in a separate decision document, which should be posted online.

The BWC policy should include a provision requiring the automatic release of all videos when APD use of force results in death or injury. The U.S. Department of Justice recommends that local police departments have such a provision in their BWC policies. In August 2021, Chief McCoy expressed his preference for an automatic release provision, but there has not been an explanation for why APD did not include such a provision in the latest draft

APD should also clarify the procedures for complying with public records requests for BWC videos. Currently, APD does not have the capacity to respond to public records requests in a timely manner as required by law. If APD receives requests for BWC media, how will APD ensure that it locates, reviews, redacts, and releases the media in a reasonable time frame and at a reasonable cost? APD should clearly establish roles and responsibilities for responding to public records requests in its policies and provide a mechanism for expediting requests related to complaints against APD officers or other matters of public interest

Finally, on October 18, 2021, I requested copies of all public comments that APD had received regarding the BWC policy up to that point. My intention was to point out that most of the public commenters wanted stricter policies governing BWCs, including an automatic release provision. APD did not respond to my public records request, even though I specified that I needed the public comments by November 6. This is disappointing and demonstrates that APD needs to improve its response to public records requests before adding a significant increase in records production (BWC media) It appears that APD intentionally did not release previous public

comments because it did not want those comments to be available to other members of the public to use as evidence that most people want an automatic release provision

Thank you for considering my comments.

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK

11/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@tutamail.com  
Subject: Body Cameras

Message: I fully support the use of body cameras. Full transparency must also be built into the policy, such that police can be held accountable for their actions and upheld for their good policing when necessary.

11/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@gci.net  
Subject: Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

Message: 1. Who is a "civilian" under this policy? Is it otherwise defined in APD P&P? (Re I. C. 3, Operational Use).

2. Re I. C. 4, Operational Use, what is "excepted" regarding recording is very unclear

3. Safeguarding Recordings, I. G. as printed (but there are 2 F's) is very lacking in substance. Usually supervisors/managers would be responsible for notifying IT when someone no longer has access.

4. There should be a retention schedule, not just info on when someone can have recordings deleted. Otherwise, are recordings intended to be held "forever"? 50 or 75 years...

5. I support comments from the Alaska ACLU.

-----  
11/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
Subject: Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

Message: I am writing to express my support of the Body Camera Policy. Thank you for making this happen!

-----  
11/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com  
Subject: Body Cameras

Message: I support this proposal. Body camera's protect officers and the public. This is a policy way overdue.

11/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Subject: Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

Message: Thanks for the opportunity to submit testimony.

It makes sense for all parties concerned for police officers to wear body cameras while on duty, and to make sure they're used during interactions with the public.

Please add my support of this policy to the public record

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

-----  
11/6/21

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@ymail.com

Subject: Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback

Message: Please add my support of this policy to the public record

### Feedback regarding Body Worn Camera Policy received via Email

October 12, 2021

Dear Interim Police Chief Kenneth McCoy,

Hello, I am reaching out about the police department's body camera program. I'm concerned that the latest policy, and the way the department has sought public input, will fail to provide full transparency and accountability for the program.

You have said you value transparency and accountability, and building public trust. Unfortunately, the latest policy does not guarantee public release of videos when the stakes for the community are highest, and we need transparency the most. It is also disappointing that APD is giving the public just 30 days to review and provide input on the latest policy, without any kind of public education about how the latest policy will affect our community.

I urge you to do more to reach out and include us in the process, which will build trust. Nothing about us should be created without us. The community voted for body cameras because they can help the department be more transparent and accountable. We need to be sure that the department follows through on these promises.

[Include more here about your views on body cameras and why this issue matters to you]

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99507-1970 [REDACTED]@gmail.com

**10/12/21 exactly the same letter**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508-3233 [REDACTED]@akcenter.org

**10/12/21 & 10/14/21 - exactly the same letter**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99504-4413 [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

**10/15/21 - Exactly the same letter**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99503 6411 [REDACTED]@citci.org

**10/23/21 - Exactly the same letter**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99507-1280 [REDACTED]@gmail.com

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99517-1220 [REDACTED]@umn.edu

**October 13, 2021**

Dear Interim Police Chief Kenneth McCoy,

Hello, I am reaching out about the police department's body camera program. I'm concerned that the latest policy, and the way the department has sought public input, will fail to provide full transparency and accountability for the program.

You have said you value transparency and accountability, and building public trust. Unfortunately, the latest policy does not guarantee public release of videos when the stakes for the community are highest, and we need transparency the most. It is also disappointing that APD is giving the public just 30 days to review and provide input on the latest policy, without any kind of public education about how the latest policy will affect our community.

I urge you to do more to reach out and include us in the process, which will build trust. Nothing about us should be created without us. The community voted for body cameras because they can help the department be more transparent and accountable. We need to be sure that the department follows through on these promises.

This is a vital measure to gaining public trust

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508-3783  
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

**10/18/21**

Dear Interim Police Chief Kenneth McCoy,  
Dear Chief McCoy and Mayor Bronson,

I am reaching out about the police department's body camera program. I'm concerned that the latest draft policy will fail to provide full transparency and accountability for the program, and has not prioritized public input.

Specifically, the latest policy does not guarantee public release of videos when the stakes for the community are highest, like when a person is killed or shot. These incidents are when we need transparency the most. Chief McCoy indicated this was a priority, and it is disappointing that neither the police department or the administration have told the public why it wasn't included. It is also disappointing that you have given the public just 30 days to review and provide input on the latest policy, without any kind of public education about how it will affect our community.

The community voted for body cameras because they can help the department be more transparent and accountable. We need to be sure that the department follows through on these promises.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508-1802 [REDACTED]@gmail.com

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**10/22/21**

Dear Police Chief Kenneth McCoy,  
Dear Chief McCoy and Mayor Bronson,

I am reaching out about the police department's body camera program. I'm concerned that the latest draft policy will fail to provide full transparency and accountability for the program, and has not prioritized public input.

Specifically, the latest policy does not guarantee public release of videos when the stakes for the community are highest, like when a person is killed or shot. These incidents are when we need transparency the most. Chief McCoy indicated this was a priority, and it is disappointing that neither the police department or the administration have told the public why it wasn't included. It is also disappointing that you have given the public just 30 days to review and provide input on the latest policy, without any kind of public education about how it will affect our community.

I urge you to do more to reach out and include us in the process, which will build trust. The community voted for body cameras because they can help the department be more transparent and accountable. We need to be sure that the department follows through on these promises.

It is important for all of us to be extremely clear in our understanding that the decision to incorporate body cams into policing was not driven internally within the police department, but by the public itself. They are happening



because of the will and insistence of the people We, the people, voted for this and agreed to pay for it We did so for the best of all reasons truth and justice We did so because accountability and transparency build trust And because we know that it is the actual facts, not the stories people tell on both sides of these interactions, that illuminate the problems we face and a beginning point in holding people/systems accountable and fixing what actually ails us.

Body cams must be worn at all times to be effective and serve their purpose - with no exceptions and with steep penalties including termination of employment if noncompliant. And they should be available with maximum transparency to the public Without those conditions, why would we even bother?

The process and the final policy are equally important here Both process and outcome afford the municipality and the police department with essential opportunities to build trust, accountability and transparency with the public who hires them. I urge you to utilize these opportunities to their fullest extent. Because failing to do so will only further erode public trust in our institutions and invite cynicism where there is hope. We are paying you to do so.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508-3268

[REDACTED]@ak.net

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**10/31/21**

Dear Police Chief Kenneth McCoy,  
Chief McCoy and Mayor Bronson,

I am concerned out about the current plan for police department's body camera program. It does not provide full transparency and accountability for the program, and needs more public input.

We need a guarantee of public release of videos when a person is killed or shot. Chief McCoy, you indicated this was a priority, and I am disappointed that neither the police department or the administration have told the public why it wasn't included. It is also disappointing that you have given the public just 30 days to review and provide input on the latest policy, without any kind of public education about how it will affect our community.

Please reach out and include the community in the process, which will build trust The community voted for body cameras because they can help APD be more transparent and accountable. We need to be sure that the department follows through on these promises.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99517 1659 [REDACTED]@gmail.com

To Crystal Kennedy and Kameron Perez Verdia, Co Chairs, Public Safety Committee of the Whole  
From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Nov. 2, 2021  
Re: Concerns with updated draft of Anchorage Police Department body-worn camera policy

Dear Co-Chairs Kennedy and Perez-Verdia,

In advance of tomorrow's meeting of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, I am sharing a list of top concerns and comments on the updated draft of the Anchorage Police Department's [body worn camera policy](#) released in October 2021. A more exhaustive analysis can be found on our website, [acluak.org](#), but I at least wanted to make sure you and the committee were equipped with our latest topline analysis.

- **No commitment to release video footage when an officer kills, shoots, or uses excessive force on a member of the community.** Section E(4) states that "BWC footage may be released in accordance with Anchorage Municipal Code 3.90 (Access to Public Records). All requests shall be made to and processed through APD Records" This language should at minimum require APD to release video in accordance with Anchorage Municipal Code 3 90, which already articulates a process for releasing records to the public But 3 90 also includes numerous exemptions that could be used as a justification to deny a records request for video from incidents of public interest, including incidents where an officer kills, shoot, or uses excessive force on a member of the community. These are incidents where transparency and accountability are needed most, and where a commitment to releasing video can build public trust.
- **Insufficient privacy protections for video that is released.** When APD does release video in response to a records request, it must ensure that it is fully protecting the privacy of Alaskans The policy should articulate how and why APD will use redaction technology to obscure identities, and require APD to preserve an unedited, original version of the video footage.
- **Policy provides officers too much authority to stop recording.** Section D(1) states circumstances that cameras "shall not be used to record," including "Communication with other police personnel or government employees where facts and circumstances of the case are being discussed unless they are a witness, victim or suspects in an investigation." Section C(6) states that "If it becomes necessary to discuss issues in private with a supervisor or another officer regarding an investigation, the officer may turn off their BWC thereby preventing their private conversation from being recorded. The officer shall document this." While the policy does require officers to document why they failed to record the entirety of an encounter or interrupted a recording, D(1) and C(6) will still increase the likelihood that critical moments during an encounter will not be recorded.
- **Lack of clarity regarding officer discipline.** The policy does not state how APD will discipline officers who use cameras or review footage inappropriately; in fact, the updated version *removed* language about discipline. If there is a standard disciplinary procedure that APD would follow in such circumstances, the policy should make that explicit
- **Lack of clarity regarding video retention.** The policy should also make explicit how APD will retain video footage — for instance, by cross-referencing an already established retention schedule that the department uses for its audio recordings. From a civil liberties perspective, it is critical that APD does not treat all body camera

footage as evidence From a cost perspective, it is critical that APD make clear how long it intends to retain video, or else the expense to the city will grow exponentially

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**MEMORANDUM**

**RE:** APD Body Worn Camera Policy

**FROM:** [REDACTED]

**TO:** The Public Safety Committee and Public Safety Advisory Commission

**DATE** November 5, 2021

The Alaska Black Caucus has promoted the purchase of body cameras for the Anchorage Police Department for years, and was instrumental in getting funding for body cameras by ballot initiative. The purpose of this effort was to ensure that there would be evidence of police and community interactions, for the protection of law enforcement and community members. Therefore, it is essential that the policy for use of body cameras ensures that the use of this technology by APD is transparent and accountable.

The Alaska Black Caucus has worked with APD and Chief McCoy on drafting a body camera policy However, the draft policy has changed recently, without notice or public input The Alaska Black Caucus is now concerned the final policy may not meet the critical criteria of transparency and accountability.

The policy for the use of body cameras needs to be created with community and public input. APD, the Assembly Public Safety Committee, and the MOA Administration need to include input from the public and community organizations in drafting the final version of this policy. We understand that the Public Safety Committee and Public Safety Advisory Commission intend to hold an additional meeting to discuss the body camera policy It is imperative that this meeting allow for true community participation, noticed well in advance, and with a clear purpose. We believe it should be an opportunity for public education and public input, and for APD to communicate to the public how this meeting will factor into the finalization of the body camera policy. We currently do not know when APD may release an updated draft, if it will accept public comment on any future draft, or when it will finalize the policy. Such ambiguity is unacceptable.

When an incident of confrontation resulting in APD use of force occurs, the first question from the public will be about body cameras. The community of Anchorage should not wait until then to address what a transparent and accountable body camera policy should look like.

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**11/6/21**

Dear Police Chief Kenneth McCoy,

Dear Chief McCoy and Mayor Bronson,

I am reaching out about the police department's body camera program. I'm concerned that the latest draft policy will fail to provide full transparency and accountability for the program, and has not prioritized public input.

Specifically, the latest policy does not guarantee public release of videos when the stakes for the community are highest, like when a person is killed or shot. These incidents are when we need transparency the most. Chief McCoy indicated this was a priority, and it is disappointing that neither the police department or the

administration have told the public why it wasn't included. It is also disappointing that you have given the public just 30 days to review and provide input on the latest policy, without any kind of public education about how it will affect our community.

I urge you to do more to reach out and include us in the process, which will build trust. Nothing about us should be created without us. The community voted for body cameras because they can help the department be more transparent and accountable. We need to be sure that the department follows through on these promises.

I want to know I'm living in a community that values safety, and a part of that is having this kind of transparency from our officers.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99502 2002 [REDACTED]@gmail.com