

# VIRGINIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COMMUNITY SURVEY REGARDING BODY WORN CAMERA POLICY

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The Virginia Police Department has had a four camera Body Worn Camera (BWC) Test Project that began in 2015.

In 2018, the Virginia Police Department (VPD) will request a budget allocation to purchase and fully implement a BWC program. The cost to acquire the body worn cameras is \$26,400 for 22 officers. The BWC system will work in conjunction with the mobile cameras in our squad cars and the data collected will be stored on an existing server with an evidence data management system provided by the camera company. Data is classified, audited, stored, and filed digitally as evidence. These digital files are uploaded wirelessly and accessed over a secured web based system which can be utilized by prosecutors and court personnel.

The 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session has defined and provided guidelines for law enforcement agencies who are establishing a Body Worn Camera program and how to develop a policy. Public input is one of the important key factors in this process. The law requires that public comment be accepted by mail, email and that elected bodies allow for public comment at one of their meetings.

To have a successful BWC Program, police agencies have to have support from the community and from the officers who wear the cameras. The benefits and challenges need to be discussed and all input is welcome. BWC are a tool for collecting and documenting evidence that will help ensure public safety.

The VPD has drafted a policy proposal regarding Body Worn Cameras. We are actively seeking feedback, comment and input regarding the proposed policy. A copy of this policy is available on the City's website at [www.virginiamn.us](http://www.virginiamn.us), by calling the Police Department at (218) 748-7510 or in person at City Hall, 327 1<sup>st</sup> Street South, Virginia MN, 55792.

*Survey responses may be mailed to or dropped off at Virginia Police Department, 327 1<sup>st</sup> Street South, Virginia MN 55792; email to [survey@virginiapd.com](mailto:survey@virginiapd.com) or fax to (218) 749-3583. Survey deadline is July 31, 2017.*

Sincerely,

Chief Mattson  
Virginia Police Department

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### 1. Increasing Community Trust

Do you generally believe that police body cameras could help increase community trust in law enforcement?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. No opinion.

### 2. Suspect Behavior

Do you believe the behavior of a suspect would be improved with a police officer wearing a body-worn camera during the contact?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Remain the same.

### 3. Your Rights To See Yourself

Do you believe that if you were video recorded by an officer wearing a body-worn camera that you should have the right to see those images upon request?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion

### 4. Who Should Have A Say

Which of the following do you believe should have a right to say whether a video recording from a police body-worn camera should be available to any member of the public upon request?

- A. Victim
- B. Witness
- C. Person Arrested
- D. All of the above
- E. Victim and Witness but not Suspect

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### 5. Interactions In Public

If you were involved in a traffic accident and images of you, your statements and the condition of your vehicle were recorded on a police body-worn camera, do you believe that video should be available to any member of the public who requests it?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Doesn't matter either way
- D. Only with my approval

### 6. Release Of Private Images

If an image, or images, were recorded by police wearing a body-worn camera were considered private but the release of those images could reduce public fear, mistrust or confusion, would you support the release of that footage?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Depends on the Nature and Location of the Footage

### 7. Public Access To Footage

Do you believe if you were video recorded by an officer wearing a body-worn camera that any other member of the public should have a right to see those images upon request?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion
- D. Depends on the Nature and Location of the Footage

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### 8. Privacy Requests

If you were involved in an incident that recorded on a police body-worn camera (victim, witness, suspect, etc.) do you believe you should have the right to request that those images be considered private?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion
- D. Depends on the Nature and Location of the Footage

### 9. Expectation Of Privacy

Do you believe in certain places where you have an "expectation of privacy" like your home, that a video recording by a police body-worn camera should automatically be considered private?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Depends on the Nature and Location of the Footage

### 10. Places They Must Record

If the police legally enter someone's home do you believe if they have a body-worn camera they should be required to have it on and recording to document their behavior while inside of the residence?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion

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### 11. Police Behavior

Do you believe the behavior of a police officer wearing a body-worn camera would be improved with the presence of the camera?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Remain the same

### 12. Maintenance of Records

An officer should be able to view (not edit) body worn video prior to writing a report.

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion

### 13. Public Opinion

All police interactions with the public should be recorded with the body worn camera.

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion

### 14. General Awareness

Are you aware of the fact that more law enforcement agencies are using or exploring the use of body worn video cameras to document interactions with members of the public?

- A. Yes
- B. No

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15. Are there specific questions you believe the VPD's body worn camera policy should address?

If YES, please explain:

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THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING YOUR INPUT.

Survey responses can be returned to:

- Virginia Police Department, 327 1st Street South, Virginia MN 55792
- Email to [survey@virginiapd.com](mailto:survey@virginiapd.com);
- Fax to: (218) 749-3586

**Survey deadline is July 31, 2017.**